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History of
Numa, Iowa
including Hibbsville and Bellair
(Appanoose County)



NUMA, 1895

1850-1960

Mrs. Harold Fayres

History of

Marine Corps

including Abbotsville and Bellair

(Cypress County)

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Mrs. H. B. Johnson
Numa, Iowa

History of Numa, Iowa

WITH SUMMARY OF HIBBSVILLE AND BELLAIR

DEDICATION 1616359

We dedicate this issue to the early pioneers and citizens who have left us such a rich heritage. For their courage, stamina and faith to create another generation which will reap the reward of their efforts. Their true belief in God. Education and love of the soil has created within our generation a deep sense of responsibility to carry the burden on in a more disturbed world.

We give credit for the idea of gathering together this material and creating this reunion to our parents, Mr. and Mrs. Anderson Langford. Many of their late years were spent in relating the past to us.

INTRODUCTION

The Numa community has planned a great reunion for all those who formerly lived in Numa and vicinity. We thought it fitting to tell the fascinating story of a town that is over one hundred years old.

Material herein is from local people, courtesy Centerville Daily Iowegian, a number of Atlases and Histories of Appanoose County. The family of the late Bert Russell has allowed us to use the wonderful history as he reveals it. Many have brought pictures and clippings.

We are indeed happy to bring this brochure to you. Interesting pictures will be on display.

We wish to thank all of those who gave their time and historical documents to make this brochure. Thanks to Patty Clemens for her help in typing.

Thanks.

Mrs. Harold Sayres.

ANECDOTES OF HOW NUMA WAS NAMED

There are many and varied stories of how the town was named.

Bert Russell's story tells of the Indian princess whose name was Nooma and later enumerated as Numa.

Another writes of the story of a minister who came and told of the people of Idemyus. He wished it to be called that. Ancient history shows land in the early Bible days near the mouth of the Nile River bore the name Idemyus and therein reigned a King "Numa."

While traveling in Canada Mrs. Anna Sayres discovered that there is in British Columbia a Numa Creek and a Numa Mountain. Upon investigation the Department of Land and Forest says that "Numa" is the Kootenay Indian word for "thunder". (Lots of thunder has been heard in the old home town.) This comes from the Indian tribe Kootenuha.

Mrs. Elmer Condra states that it was named by the Rock Island Railroad which could not use the name Bellair as there was another town on the route by the same name.

According to the late Steven Carter it is the only town in the United States with a post office by that name.

OLD HIBBSVILLE A PRETENTIOUS TOWN
WHICH COMPETED WITH CENTERVILLE FOR TRADE
AND STOOD OVER HALF A CENTURY

The following in regard to Old Hibbsville is furnished by J. C. Harvey of Seymour, and Walt Stevenson, with some additional information from Sherman Varner, now owner of the land where the town stood:

When you start this old time talk just a few minutes please lest you forget, there was in an early day, another inland town that competed with the county seat, Centerville, and possibly was the metropolitan burg of the county.

James W. Hibbs, as a young man, came west in 1848 to grow up with the country. In the year of 1849-50 he located his homestead in the northeast part of Shoal Creek township and at a junction point of the old southwest Mormon trail. This young man decided to build a town. In 1850-51 he started a general store and in 1852-53 erected and operated a grist and saw mill. A few years later he added flouring mills and by 1857 he built a woolen carding mill. By this time his dreams had become true--the town was on a boom.

A log school house was built in 1853, and in 1857 the first frame school building in Appanoose county was built at Hibbsville. By this time Hibbsville had grown to a considerable sized town of 20 or more houses and buildings. With mills in operation, it brought business from a long distance; with three general stores, a drug store, a hotel, shoe shop, blacksmith shop, livery stable and feed stables, a preacher and a teacher, with a produce market established, made Hibbsville a great trading place with a bright future in store.

Now the pioneer immigrants moving westward came to a halt, and decided it was a good location to stop and live. The Buntin family had located at the blue grass corner where the Mormons had camped in 1846. Buntin must have located there that year, coming from Linn County, Missouri. Buntin, Sr., lived to be quite an aged man, after improving his homestead, putting out a big orchard, one that rivaled Joseph Jump's orchard. When the time came, just before the passing of Mr. Buntin, he tried to tell his family where he had hid a pot of gold. He had waited too long, his mind was gone. None understood the hiding place. It is believed today somewhere on Blue Grass Ridge a pot of gold is hidden. At his death he was laid to rest in a new-made cemetery upon his own farm. Today this place is unmarked, and few people know its location.

In 1849, the Henry Stevenson and Colbert Blair families came west from Pennsylvania, locating nearby Hibbsville. Mr. Stevenson homesteaded a claim, built a log house and improved his claim, owning and residing on this farm until death. Mr. Stevenson was well known in early Appanoose history. He donated the land where the beautiful Hibbsville cemetery is located. He also donated the land where the Antioch Chapel is located.

Mr. Blair went on west to Oregon in 1853, following closely behind the Henkle caravan of thirteen Appanoose county families.

In 1853 a post office and Star mail route were established from St. John, Mo., to points east. James Skipper carried the mail from St. John to Centerville. James Hibbs was made postmaster at Hibbsville and held the job continuously from beginning to end, or for over 50 years. Some record.

Hibbsville thrived and prospered until the railways came. Numa was founded in 1871, only two miles away, and Cincinnati secured a railroad along about that time. This spelled the doom for the once prosperous pioneer village with much promise. People began to move, some going to Numa, and some to Cincinnati, and about all the houses were moved out on farms; the school house was moved, the mills were dismantled, and moved away. Only Mr. Hibbs and a few families were left. They stuck and stayed and made it a one store town. Hibbsville existed for nearly 60 years.

In the late eighties, Hibbsville had a baseball club, and stuck for 20 years, a ball team that was well advertised.

James Hibbs, in pioneer days, was known as one of Iowa's foremost business men. He introduced the first department store in this section of the country, where you could buy a paper of pins to a threshing machine. M. R. Hibbs introduced the first barb wire fencing in the state.

Blair Stevenson owned and operated the first horse-powered threshing machine in this section of the country, and in later years he and Ed Streepy introduced the first steam-powered thresher in Appanoose county.

Today only the marks of the once-prosperous place lies in a cornfield. The streets and highways are no more. The old cemetery, located just north, is well preserved where many of the old pioneers are at rest, and the old town will soon be forgotten.

Some Additional Reminiscences

In addition to the above is added the following, obtained thru Sherman Varner, who now owns the land on which old Hibbsville stood; also some data from county histories. Hibbsville stood somewhat east of the center of Section 25, Franklin Township:

In 1854 Hibbsville had its first teacher and necessarily its first school. The lady who taught the young pioneers of that early day was Miss C. Stanton, according to the information of Mr. Varner. Mr. Varner, who now lives in this city, says that in 1855 Hibbs put in a flouring department in connection with his carding apparatus and this was the first mill ever erected in Franklin Township. A steam saw mill was put in operation by E. O. Smith in 1858 as an important addition to the city's business. Not long afterwards another flouring mill was built at what is now known as Livingston.

In connection with these recollections of early life in Franklin Township, Mr. Varner recalls that he used to talk with Mr. Hibbs and that one of the stories told in connection with Hibbsville was that of the finding of an earthen vessel or urn several feet in the ground while a well was being dug for the school house. He further related that at one time there were sulphur springs at Hibbsville, at which the Mormons had camped while crossing Appanoose county. According to Mr. Hibbs this spring was down in a crevice of rocks, but the water was considered so beneficial that Indians and early settlers came for miles to drink there, and considerable quantities of water were gotten out by climbing down slippery rocks with earthen vessels and bringing them up again.

Perhaps one of the oldest buildings in this part of the county in the early days, was the Aaron Inman Inn. It was a two-story affair, and long before Appanoose county was much other than an Iowa prairie, this building stood as sentinel and the haven for weary immigrants who were hurrying to the Western land, and often sheltered early settlers from the raids of white marauders, hostile Indian bands and wild animals which were a menace on the prairie at night. The old building was constructed of hewed logs and had a lean-to on three sides. The door fastenings were all made of wood and turned by hand. The entire structure was built without benefit of nails. Mr. Varner recalls that after it had passed into disuse, the building was looked upon as haunted for many years.

From Centerville Daily Iowegian & Citizen, Wednesday, January 10, 1934

BELLAIR

The village was founded October 7, 1854, by Alexander Jones, and surveyed and platted by John Potts. The principal streets, Jackson and Washington streets, named after presidents of the United States, run north and south, and Main street runs east and west. A store was built in 1855 and a post office established in 1859. In 1871 the Rock Island Railroad missed the town by one-half mile and the town of Numa soon absorbed Bellair. The village and township of Bellair were named for Bellaire (older form Bell Air), an Ohio town in Belmont county, Ohio, near Wheeling, West Virginia.

Among the early settlers in and nearby were the Henry Adamson family, the Blackburns, the Mannings, the Jacob Norris family, the G. R. Hustons, E. E. Harveys, Bradleys, Kellers, and Millers. A Masonic lodge was formed by dispensation in 1857 and a charter granted in 1858. In 1871 it was moved to Numa. Co. B, 6th Kansas Cavalry, was made up of men from near Bellair and Jerome.

The town of Numa was laid out by G. R. Huston and Capt. T. E. Harvey, surveyed by J. F. Stratton in February, 1871 and acknowledged in March of the same year. The name was suggested by Capt. Harvey, a local Christian minister, and is a shortening of Idumaea, the people are Idumaeans and from the word Numa is easily made. Capt. Harvey was also a Mexican war soldier.

The old Tavern still remained in Bellair near the school building. The name of the English family, the keepers of the inn, was Johnson, the parents of H. Johnson, Mrs. Ida Murphy of Numa, and Mrs. Laura Inman.

BELLAIR

By Emma Johnson Harvey

Bellair as I remember it was a quaint village with but a few streets. The ones I remember best were Main Street and the long one where I lived and the one running north from Main leading to the old schoolhouse built in 1857, a tall, two-story frame building around which the intellectual life of the community centered. At the beginning of Main Street at the east and leading into Centerville stood the village inn called Brayman House. Before the Civil War and many years later it was kept by Mr. and Mrs. Brayman and son Barney. One son Andrew enlisted in the Civil War Co. I, 36th Inf., and a few years later was killed at the Battle of Marks Mill.

The house next to the inn and just across the lane from our home was the house where Prof. L. N. Judd lived. As the head of the famous Bellair High School he was very capable and efficient. The Bellair school had a reputation which drew young men and women from neighboring counties to seek knowledge they could not gain at home. There were always two or three boarding with us. A few I recall were Ed Cutler, Tom Hammer and Arch Thompson.

Wonderful entertainments were given in the school. We called them "Exhibitions" then. My mother (Marilla Harvey) used to be Chief Counsellor and prepared many of the programs. She put on the play "Little Dell." One of the songs she wrote for the small children was just doggerel and ran like this: "By the side of the hill stands a village neat. The Bellair school is hard to beat. Tra-la-la. Harvey and Conger have goods to sell and if you buy from them you do quite well. Tra-la-la. Byron Brayman keeps hotel. If you stop there you will pay a bill. Mr. Tissue is a very fine man. He wears a fine name as anyone can. George Sutton makes boots and shoes. You may buy them if you chose. Tra-la-la," and it went on to name all the citizens.

One student I always remember was Shockey, who always came to school wearing his father's old pants rolled up at the ankles and bagging at the sea's. The coat sleeves were turned back at the wrists. We all liked Shockey and felt sorry for him.

One of the outstanding characters of the town was beloved Dr. Ball. He helped bring into the world most of the youngsters and smoothed the pillow for many a dying sufferer. He had a beautiful daughter, Letitia or Letty. She published a book of poems.

The Landmarks of the Village

One of the old landmarks was the old white frame Methodist Church (later it was the schoolhouse in Numa) that was later converted into a residence. Others were the dilapidated Fisher store where the Joiner family lived and the little white Christian Church among the trees at the end of the lane where E. E. Harvey (my father) preached on Sundays. Another landmark was the Holshouser house at the edge of town, where lived the village capitalist. (This was the home of Rebecca Martin, which burned in November, 1959.) According to history it was used as an inn and had many boarders. They also cooked meals and carried them to the Rock Island Railroad crews and passenger trains. Many of the landmarks and leaders of the community have passed on.

Christmas at Johnson Inn by Emma Harvey Johnson (born Bellair 1860)

The summary tells of all the excitement anticipated that Santa and a Christmas tree would be there. Here is how she describes it: The tree was a simple forest tree wrapped in bright colored paper festooned with popcorn, strung on trees, filled with little sacks of apples, nuts, homemade candy, and cakes baked in shapes of animals. It was lighted with tallow candles.

Santa Claus was Mrs. Johnson, who danced in with a large, loose white robe over a hoop skirt and a peaked red cap on her head. She wished everybody a Merry Christmas, but all the youngsters were afraid of her.

E. E. Miller Describes Days in a School West of Bellair

This is just a sketch of my school life in the sixties. My first schooling was in an old log house 20 feet square, located two miles west of old Bellair. The furniture consisted of split logs for seats and one chair for the teacher with 50 scholars ranging in age from five to 25, with one drinking cup for the entire bunch. There wasn't a shade tree, a toilet or a coal house. We carried our water one-half mile up a dusty road.

These split log seats had no backs, neither did I by 4 p.m. There were no desks in front, so we just laid our books by our side on the log--sometimes they and we fell off. Martha Manning, N. C. Blackburn and Martha Bradley were among our first teachers. Some of the pupils were the four Bradley boys, the four Wilson boys and Leander Rinker, Frank, Tom, Nancy, Mary and Lydia Henderson, and Phoebe, Matilda, Betsy and Dan Farmer.

**Mrs. Eva Huston Blackburn, wife of the late N. C. Blackburn,
Writes from 905 East Ninth Street, Trenton, Missouri.**

In the year 1854 my parents, Mr. and Mrs. Glen Huston, came to Bellair from Ohio. My father ran a general store with George Fisher. The goods were all hauled by team from Ottumwa. The post office was on the corner. The postmaster was Melias Holshouser, grandfather of Bertha Holshouser Hogan. Some of the names remembered were Fisher, Knapp, McGuire, Aisliler, McCord, Jones, Brayman, Smiley, Atkinson, Criswell and Thornburg. The Thornburg farm is now the town of Numa.

The house built by the Hustons was sold first to the Johnsons and later became known as the Johnson Inn and still later to the Holshousers and was a hotel called the Holshouser House. The J. W. Martin family lived for many years in this home. After the death of her husband and two doctor sons, Mrs. Rebecca Martin lived there until it was destroyed by fire in 1959.

Early Memories as told by Mrs. Charles Porter

My grandfather, John Manning, in 1850 moved from Clearmont County, Ohio, to Iowa. He came first to Lee County and in 1854 came to Appanoose County. He settled one and one-fourth miles southwest of Bellair. His four sons, William, Enoch, Joseph and Harry volunteered and went to the Civil War. Also his seven sons-in-law, Sam Davis, Henry Hoekman, James Ridgeway, John Teeter, W. W. Elliot, Jesse McCannon and G. W. Holshouser. They all returned from war except Harry Manning. James Ridgeway, my father, died soon after his coming home from war. We moved close to Bellair for two little girls to go to school.

Bellair had the first high school in the county. A group of Centerville ladies, Misses Rebecca and Lizzie Pendergast, Mary Sidies and Alice Moore, roomed at my mother's. Ed Cuttler and Tom Hammer attended high school and often called on the young ladies at our house. Other ladies who attended were Helen Mecker and Libbie Baughman of Caldwell Township.

Professor Judd taught the upper high school and John Hoover, then a young man, taught the lower grades. Mrs. John Tibbetts taught the states and capitals, their locations on the rivers or inland.

There were two churches, Christian and Methodist. The Methodist first held meetings in a former store. Later during the pastorate of Circuit Rev. John Orris, the first M. E. Church was built.

Some residents of Bellair whom I recall are Peter and Cornelius Peterson, the Tibbetts, Holshousers, Mannings, Hustons, Suttons, Mrs. Brayman, Capt. Harvey, Dr. Ball, Uncle Henry Adamson, Auntie Blackburn, Rev. Charles Clark, and Rev. Thomas Stevenson.

The old high school building of old Bellair was moved to Numa and used for the first hotel.

HISTORY OF OLD BELLAIR THAT LATER BECAME NUMA
AND THE EARLY DAY FAMILIES AND EVENTS THAT
MADE HISTORY IN THAT PART OF APPANOOSE COUNTY

This comprehensive coverage of the earlier and intermediate history of Old Bellair and the town of Numa was compiled under the direction of W. B. Russell, the Numa correspondent of the Iowegian, and all his life identified with the community as business man and postmaster.

For the following account of the early days of Numa, as it was formerly called, we are indebted to reminiscences given by George M. Arbogast, P. F. Miller, Mr. and Mrs. A. P. Stanton, H. L. Johnson, Noah Harper, Mrs. Susan Teter Matherly, Mrs. Ide Murphy, Miss Phoebe Norris, Miss Glendora Norris, C. C. Arbogast, A. J. Chumbley, James Arbogast, all now living, and to personal remembrances of reminiscences given by many who have passed beyond, as O. P. Russell, Wm. Fox, Michael Arbogast, Henry Hockman, Billy Elliott, B. F. Bradley, John Manley Packard, Uncle Henry Adamson, John Miller, Uncle Elijah Jones, and many others held in loving memory by the older ones of the community. Space will not allow the mention of all, but by many others, assistance has been gladly given. To these we express our thanks.

Bellair—situated nine miles southwest of Centerville, Appanoose County, Iowa, was no doubt chosen as a home site from its peculiar situation—it being located midway between Cooper Creek on the north, and Shoal creek on the south, at a point where both streams curved toward each other, a point where they came nearer together than any other point of their southeasterly course, and the only point where the heavy timber joined across the watershed. Thus wood was plentiful for the upland homes established, and bountiful spring water was furnished by the wonderful Arbogast spring to the north drainage and the Kellar springs to the south watershed. Also, it was a natural game passage, separating the plain regions that extended to the east and west, and naturally became the point of passage of trails from the east and northeast. We have not been able to determine the name of the hardy soul who first established a home here, but from all we can learn, the first home must have been situated where now stands the C. C. Arbogast home, which was the west end and north side of the main street of the business section of Bellair. The trail that centered on the site of Bellair, was known as the Wyatt trail, coming in from the northeast, and crossing Cooper Creek at the old Arbogast mine site. It separated from Bellair, going south by way of what was later known as the Kellar crossing on the farm now owned by H. L. Johnson, to Hibbsville, and southwest, and west on the divide ridge toward Seymour and Genoa.

The Old Inn

One of the first locations as an inn, situated at the top of the hill, and forming the east end, north side of the main street of Bellair, the business section. The early and only owners of this inn who became famous for their hospitality and accommodations were Mr. and Mrs. George Johnson. Following the death of Mr. Johnson, Mrs. Johnson still conducted the inn and later became the wife of M. M. Wilson, now deceased but well known as a farmer and stockman. This family has contributed much to the history of Numa and vicinity, living members being H. L. Johnson, Mrs. Ide Murphy, still residing in the community, and Fred Johnson of California.

Bellair business district consisted of a street running east and west, extending from a lime kiln, just south of where the William King saw mill now stands, and on the north side of the road, approximately 1,000 feet west to the end of main street as it now stands. Many business places and homes must have been erected in a sort of early boom, as evidences are that many houses were constructed about the same time. A Methodist church building was located just where the Bart Stanton home now stands on the south side of the street, where first religious services were held, in a public way. Later a Christian church was built, contributors and builders being outstanding, Michael Arbogast, Henry Adamson, Henry Hockman, John Miller, Manley Packard, R. Moss, D. S. McCannon and Robert Parks, Capt. E. E. Harvey



The Johnson Inn, 1868

was one of the early ministers. Following the construction of the railway in 1871, and the change to Numa, the Methodist church was built on its present location, and later the Christian church was abandoned in original Bellair, and the new location made where the church now stands. The original Methodist church was later used for a dwelling, and later destroyed by fire. The original Christian church was used as school property, the lot being added to the public school lands, and the building purchased and razed by W. B. Russell, the hewn frame now being the barn frame of the Mrs. Ide Murphy barn. One of the first preachers was Rev. Orr, Methodist, also Rev. Thatcher. Rev. Orr was the minister who secured funds to build the M. E. church on its present location. Later it was remodeled.

In the plotting of the town of Bellair, the school location was first made of a lot to the north of the present site, but connected. The first school held was not on this location, but was a subscription school, held on the site of the Fannie Tenant corner, west and south side of the main street, a school taught in a home, seats being made of split logs, with punchcoen arrangements—legs set in bored holes. Cornelius Peterson lived there and his wife was the school teacher. Then the most pretentious school house in Appanoose county was built on the present school ground but to the north side, and opposite to the later built Christian church. It became the first high school in Appanoose county, was conducted by Professor Judd, and some of those who secured high school education there were Nannie Flick, Ellen Meeker and Mattie Baughman, of Exline, (the writer attended many terms of school taught by Mattie Baughman, later wife of Doc Cashman, and now living in Centerville), Archie Thompson, John Hoover, Asa Thornburg, Calvin Thornburg, N. C. Blackburn, Eva Huston (Mrs. N. C. Blackburn), Jim Miller, Sam Blackburn, Billy Huston, Letitia Ball, and many others. Later, the school spirit seems to have moved to a more central location, and the schools became the regular eighth grade work, and the high school building was abandoned and later became the barn on the well known Jakie Norris farm north of Bellair, he being a large land owner, and important stockman and thresherman. The next school was a one-story building on the same site, later it became the home of Jessie McCannon, and later was destroyed

by fire on the site of the Charles Kelse home now. The third school building was a frame one-story building with four rooms — and after many years it was sold to William Shew, who wrecked it and used the material in home construction in Centerville. Following this, the present fine high school building was erected, the site being moved south to the Main street and more ground being acquired of the original business section of Bellair. Very little trace of the lime kiln is left, that was operated by Ike Adams, south of the William King Mill.

The first coal used in this community was secured from the Joe Hall mine slope, situated east of the formerly known Lantz farm, later known as the Smith mine location. The first coal mine was northwest of Bellair, just west of the Mrs. John Packard home, known as the Hueston mine. Several local mines followed as the Kellar, Arbogast, and Blind Pig, but the first railway mine was sunk by Al Jones and B. F. Bradley, later to be known as the Diamond mine and operated for many years by the Centerville Block Mine Co. This mine operated more than 48 years. The next railway mine was the "Kob" mine, operated first by J. W. Hibbs & Co., and later by H. L. Johnson located southeast of Numa, and the coal brought to the railway by a tram rack. It operated for several years and was later acquired by George Widmer of the Seymour Coal Co., who later sunk the mine just east of Numa and also known as "The Kob," and later abandoned. Then the Arbogast railway mine was sunk now in operation, and also the Martin mine, called "Greentop," largest production mine in Numa history.

Early Bellair knew many businesses of which no trace now remains. Two blacksmith shops were operated on the main street, both on the south side and located now, one in the spot the Otto Buck home stands on, and the other near the spot of the Harry Thorp home. One was operated by George Athy, and the other by Alex. Jones. Two boot and leather workers also were located on the "street," Andy Tibbetts and George Seton, and they were credited as being fine workmen, folks being proud of classy boots in that time. Even millinery was boasted, Mrs. Tibbetts running a noted shoppe, on the north side near where the John Zore home now stands. Jim Cunningham is reputed as being the first druggist in Bellair, and there is a well known story of a shooting scrape in which a "Richardson" cleaned out the place and shot one of Mr. Cunningham's fingers off. Cunningham lived on the location of the W. B. Russell home now. One of the first general stores in Bellair is credited to a Mr. Fisher, and the store stood on the present site of the Numa high school. He is also credited with handling the overland mail in his establishment. No record of a saloon in Bellair has been discovered, although two were operated later in Numa, following the building of the railway. Medical situations were handled by Dr. Ball, Dr. Asher, and Dr. Dukes in Bellair, and later Dr. Neeley, Dr. Hankins, Dr. Hurt, Dr. Chrissinger, Dr. Johnson, and others in line. Bellair was favored by some very skillful carpenters, perhaps the outstanding being Wood Stevenson and David Reynolds. These are outstanding in that they made the early caskets, mostly from walnut timber and very nice. Some few of the first buildings still stand and give evidence of their skill.

The Masonic lodge early became a factor in Bellair, and their first gatherings were held in the public school building later moving to the upper room of the Bradley & Bradley store in Numa. Later they were transferred to Cincinnati. In the closing days of the existence of Bellair as a town, the establishments of the George Athy, Wilcox Mill site was made just west of the north side of the Numa square, still evidences of the mill pond being found, and today William King reports finding part of the stone burrs of this mill. It was a very prominent part of the industry of the early days. Of the very early life of Bellair, we find that the social life was quickened by music from the accordion, Miss Nannie Fox, later Mrs. O. P. Russell, being an artist on this instrument and was in great demand with her music and vocal talents. Early "fiddlers" were also in demand, and Uncle Sammy Brown, Riley Stewart and Wood Stevenson were famous. Another was Dr. Hollingsworth, and a good physician. The singing ability of the Dukes family was noted, those of later years remembering J. Z. Dukes especially, who now resides in Upton, Wyo., 84 years

of age, a school teacher here, still teaching school there. Also the Hudsons, silver voiced singers. Jakie Hudson, the father, was a very early settler on a farm southeast of Bellair. Preston Wilson, farmer and stockman just west, was father of Pierce, Miles, Abe, Press and Jim Wilson, well known in different walks of life. Jim Wilson died in the Civil War, victim of a guerrilla band of Missouri. John Miller found him just as he fell, with hands folded under forehead. William Wyatt, land owner north and east of Bellair, had a trail named for him. Charley Porter, resident, Ruff Moss, farmer and stockman. Henry Blackburn and wife Ann, known as Aunt Blackburn, much history revolves around them; deeply religious and earnest workers, they walked to Cincinnati to Sunday School. A brother, Jim Blackburn, the first one killed in a coal mine here, fell into the Hueston mine. Michael Arbogast home just across the road from the Blackburn farm home, first the home was built (1851) on the creek near the spring, later part way to the main road, and later on the road, to make what we know as the old Arbogast home. Sons George, James, John, Dug, Ed and Charley, and daughters Mary, now Mrs. Clarence Kewley, Frances Condra and Martha Lantz. This family has had a large part in the early history of Bellair and Numa. Milas Holshouser, farmer west of Numa, father of George Holshouser, long time hotel and liveryman of Numa. Henry Adamson, farmer south of Bellair, father of Willis Adamson and Elza and Jim Adamson. Willis, or I. W. as we so well knew him, was the competitor of George Holshouser as a hotel and livery man, and for many years he and his good wife were very active in the life of early Numa, known far and wide. E. W., or Elza, was a school master, and County Superintendent of Schools, now living in Centerville. Jim is a farmer and stockman of Kansas. Enoch Farmer, farmer and stockman, living southwest of Numa, deceased. Son Nathan Farmer now living in Numa. Andy Barnell, farmer southwest of Bellair on the farm now known as G. M. Arbogast home. John Manning, farmer southwest of Bellair, well known especially in Seymour, father of Mrs. Wm. Elliott and Mrs. Jesse McCannon, both also early settlers of Bellair. Aaron Harper, father of Noah Harper, large land holder and farmer. Noah Harper, son of Aaron, owner and trainer of record holding race horses, well known stock buyer and shipper. John Strickland, early day teamster. Capt. Harvey resided on same spot as the present Glenn Davis home, large land owner, and father of a talented family. J. C. Harvey, well known writer, is a nephew of this family. William Sneider, resided on Main street in Bellair, was Lieutenant in the Union Army, died in service, daughters Alice and Ida married J. Z. Dukes and Wm. S. Fox. W. S. Fox will be remembered as mayor of Centerville, at the time of his death, and also as leader of the Days of '76 fife and drum corps, used in Chicago during the stirring days of the World War. Manley Packard, father of John and Bruce Packard, and Mrs. J. B. Arbogast. Mr. and Mrs. John Manley Packard were the first couple to secure a marriage license in Appanoose county. Dave Sells, Ben Joiner, Ferdinand Woods, all lived in houses just east of the old school, properties long since erased. John Denoon resident. Secrest Nevins, first hotel in Bellair. Capt. McNally lived in former house where J. R. Boyd home now stands. John Miller, storekeeper on Main street, Bellair, Cooper Cooley, farmer and land owner southeast of Bellair, Civil War veteran, farm still in descendant's name. Jesse Guinn lived on west end of Main street, Bellair, south side, now known as Fannie Tennant corner. Was father of Mrs. George Athy, and grandfather of Mrs. Vienna Stanton, wife of A. P. Stanton, all well known pioneers of Bellair and Numa. English Bill Fox, well known early day farmer. Adam Kellar, large land holder southeast of Bellair, father of Harness, Isaac, Pless Kellar and of Mrs. S. F. Murphy, all well known pioneers of Bellair, Elias Teter, stockman and land holder southeast of Bellair, father of Mrs. Susan Matherly, the last remaining resident Civil War widow. W. M. Fox, land holder, farmer and stockman, east of Bellair, and civic leader in Bellair, father of Elias, William, both deceased, and of Nancy, who became the wife of O. P. Russell, both now deceased, but long time residents. Lewis Bramen, land owner, who owned part of the Bellair and Numa location. Dr. Ball, who owned the present John Packard farm. William Johns, who lived on the Ball farm following removal of Huston, and sank what is known

as the Johns mine south of the Huston mine. Son William Johns, still a resident of this community, and son George, a professor in eastern college, daughter Martha, also lives in east, wife of professor in college. Asa Thornburg, Sr., land owner, owned land on which Numa now is located, Lewis Cobble, first owner of what is commonly known as the Kellar farm, point of Mormon Trail crossing of Shoal Creek, south of Numa, now owned by H. L. Johnson, and man credited with statement of his son Levi, when he started to the Civil War service, "Don't you dare to come home with a shot hole in your back." Jesse Wells, and brother of Capt. Ben Wells, well known auctioneer of Appanoose county, and Mrs. Jim Litsey, a sister, all early resident of Bellair vicinity. Peter Livingood, homesteader just east of Bellair, known for his hospitality and fine wines, sons George and Mose, well known Appanoose residents, as well as Mrs. Sam Smith now residing on the old homestead, John Herrald, Sr., living southeast of Bellair, very early settler, father of Dahl, Dick, and John Jr., John Jr. is still living in Oklahoma. John Bradley, landowner and stockman, also merchant, father of B. F. Bradley, who was Civil War veteran and former county board member, a family that had much to do with the civic life of Bellair. During these early days it was a common thing to see large droves of hogs and cattle pass, some of the remaining pioneers still tell of the trail drive to Ottumwa, the only market in those days, and driving from the southwest was generally through Bellair, where pens were arranged for care overnight. It is told that many droves of hogs would be led on stampede at the Chariton crossing, refusing by their leader to enter the water, and the driver would seize the leader and with his thumb burst the eyes of the leader and the drove would easily take the water.

The building of the C.R.I.&P. railway along this natural watershed from Centerville west to Seymour marked the last days of importance of Bellair, and the railway applied the name Numa to the new station established one-fourth mile south of the business street of Bellair. Family story, legend we may call it, states that the name was given to the station by an incident of Indian origin. It may be just a story but runs like this, we have verified the real Indian part of it in the death and burial of the little Indian girl. "A tribe of Indians was passing through the vicinity of Bellair, using the two crossings of the creeks mentioned, and several of the elder folks can tell of seeing them cross there at different times. On the bottom north of town, the tribe camped, the little daughter of the chief was very sick. White folks assisted in the care of the little one and she was a very patient sufferer and won the hearts of the white folks assisting. She gradually grew weaker and soon died, and was buried just on the east line of what is now the Numa cemetery, beneath a large black oak tree, and a mound raised over her grave. Those witnessing the burial state there was placed a bowl of honey and a spoon beside the body in the grave. Her name was spoken as nearly as they could decide, Nooma, and the story goes that it was that which influenced the decision to call the new station Numa -- although Numa is directly attributed to mean "Lion." Much conjecture is placed around this story--some histories have record of the death and burial of an Indian princess near Bellair, many think the grave to be in the location of burial ground south of the H. L. Johnson home on the Timber Ridge of the Kellar land. Many names to be very closely related to the history of both Bellair and Numa now come to mind of those now living, but venerable in age. One branch of the Adamson family, Joseph Adamson, takes a prominent part in the early day. He was the father of Mrs. B. F. Bradley, of Charles Adamson and of Walk Adamson. Another was William Bradley, father of Rowan Bradley, both of whom had prominent parts in civic and business life of the early community.

In the first years of the '70s, Numa was born with the boom that naturally followed the building of the railway, indeed an attachment to Bellair, but gradually drawing the full importance until the name of the first post office was called Numa, and the first postmaster was John Wynn, who was also the first depot agent on the new railway. This was really the period of depression following the Civil War, and

the first years of the new town was a struggle in this condition. Gangs of construction workers lived in cars and tents strung along where the Greentop and Arbogast mines now stand—hastily constructed buildings formed the square as now known in Numa, and the business places were thus determined instead of a main street as was formerly in Bellair. The old hotel building, and the Add Veach home hotel were widely known, the former on the southeast corner of the square and the latter on the northwest corner of the square, and until two years ago it still remained a landmark and used dwelling. The former hotel gave way in the early 1900's to the more pretentious St. Frances brick hotel. The post office being established—a sort of Star route, was immediately determined with Hibbsville—J. W. Hibbs, Sr., postmaster; Livingston, S. Parker, postmaster; and Genoa, Walter Hartsaw, postmaster. The first mail carrier on this route was John Wilcox or Sam Blackburn, some doubt which. Others who carried this mail are numerous, sometimes a yearly contract chief among them being Tillman Langford, land owner to the southwest, veteran of the Civil War, and father of Charles, Anderson, Roy and Fred, now living. The station agent system of postmaster was naturally first—later Elias Fox, Sr., was postmaster, then J. W. Hibbs, then Elias Fox, then J. W. Hibbs, Mrs. H. F. Kewley, Bert R. Arbogast, and at present W. B. Russell. The first section foreman was Lafe Welch, and he directed the placing of the first heavy bed of limestone rock for the Rock Island. This rock was secured from quarries situated up and down Cooper creek to the north and was vast business for a time. Quarrying rock became a trade, the largest quarries being on the Arbogast and William Fox land holdings, evidence of the vast quarries still being plain.

Some Rougher Work

As was natural the coming of the railway carried a new quality of inhabitants into the former inland town of Bellair, injected new blood as it were, and for a time rough days were common. The old business location was hastily abandoned, every-



Christian Church and School House

thing being moved to the new location except the school and the Christian church, which was relocated much later on its present position. Blacksmith shops were quickly established by George Athy and Uncle Add Veach, genial, friendly competitors, and both very efficient in their trade of iron work and wagon building. Side by side

they built, Athy first and Veach following. It was in the dedication of the Veach two-story blacksmith shop that one mark of serious results started. A dance was given, folks crowded in and with Wood Stevenson on a raised platform doing the "fiddling," two brothers named Richardson, from Seymour, determined to do things, started a fight and soon a real rough house was in progress. A man by the name of Anderson was much taller than the rest and reaching over the top of others executed fist vengeance on opposite fighters. Abe Wilson begged to be deputized to arrest, but in the general roundup the perpetrators of the disturbance, the Richardson brothers, escaped, and on horse got to Seymour. The law followed and the marshal, McCoy of Seymour, started out after them. They appeared with guns, and a lively exchange followed in which one of the Richardsons fell dead. The marshal's gun was empty and he ran for his hotel room and reloaded and hastened to a window where he saw the other Richardson coming for him. A well-placed shot killed the second Richardson, and aged residents here tell of seeing the two bodies brought through Numa on the way to burial in the Wright cemetery, located just west of Centerville, on what was formerly known as the Timber road to Centerville.

Cunningham established a drug store on the spot where the Ted Hibbs store now stands and with Dr. Dukes, practicing physician and his son as clerk. Miller and Atherton built the two-story building on the west end of the north side and ran a general store, Elias Fox built on the center of the north side and ran a general store, and his good wife Aunt Sarah, kept boarders. They were the parents of Hiram, Hi the musician, and Alice, who later was the wife of Mark Graham, well known throughout the county, now deceased.

Elzona became the wife of A. E. Arbogast, now deceased, and the mother of Golda, Hazel and Hallie well known in Numa and Centerville. The wife of Elias Fox, Aunt Sarah, and the wife of Add Veach, Aunt Rhoda, are perhaps the best known mothers of Bellair and Numa—public spirited and each keeping boarders.

The Graham family, Maxie Graham, the father, was another family of real importance in the community, living to the east, land owners, and known far and near as melon raisers. Alva Graham, Charles Graham, and the entire family have had a real part in early Appanoose. Following Miller and Atherton were Bradley and Rinker, long time merchants, who owned the business when the first building on this spot burned. The upper part of the building was used for the Masonic lodge. They rebuilt the building, but only a one-story building, which was later added to by Mrs. Tom Kewley, to hold the post office in, and office of Dr. Hurt. Tom Kewley first lived in the property now the Stanton home, later moved to the present Bert R. Arbogast home, where he died. This family added much to the middle time history of Numa, consisting of one son, Clarence, who married Mary Arbogast; daughters Myrtie, wife of Dr. Hurt; Effie, wife of James Parks, county auditor; Mable, who died in Texas; and Maude, who became the wife of James Wertz, who ran one of the most successful stores in Numa, later going to Centerville where he conducted a large grocery business in the Biddle building, now deceased. Another early family that had much to do with both early Bellair and Numa was the Bobby Parks family, south of Numa; land owner and farmer. S. N. Parks and Jim Parks were sons, Mrs. Rachel Green a daughter, now deceased. S. N. Parks for a long time was mail carrier on route one out of Udell, Iowa, but now is retired.

The Centerville Block Coal Co. finally acquired the Diamond mine on the railway, west of the square, and Dargavel & Oliver became a power in the business of Numa. Building of company houses was instituted, and many more residents came in. Then new business came in, Elias Fox releasing his business to J. W. Fox; J. W. Hibbs establishing in the frame building on the east and north side of the square, and he determined to have a better building. Brick dirt was accessible on the east side of Cooper Creek, at the Falls location, now the Charles Lepper home location, and there O. P. Russell cleared the timber away, and a brick yard was established and bricks burned for the brick building now occupied by the Ted Hibbs store and the K. of P. hall. This was the first brick building in either Bellair or Numa. The selection of limestone rock for the base of the railway developed some accom-

plished masons in stone. O. P. Russell, P. F. Miller, William Denoon, and many others taking up the trade, and all wells then made were dug and walled with limestone rock. Walls and foundations for buildings were universally made from this material, with lime and later cement. One photograph gallery alone is reported in Bellair, run by Oscar Sears. Some of the remaining tintypes are stamped with his name. Re Teter, who was also a farmer, is claimed to be one of the earliest public ministers of the early days of Bellair, a Methodist, somewhat condemned in those days because he used tobacco. Mrs. Ide Murphy tells of the first religious worship she attended in Bellair as a very small girl, immediately after coming here from Virginia. Her mother, Mrs. Harriett Johnson, and sister, Mrs. Minnie Dyball, both deceased, were with her, and each of them had hats, the only hats in the congregation, they soon discovered, and they were the center of all eyes, staring at their unusual headgear. All others wore squared bonnets, with long tails of different colors, Mrs. Johnson crying because of the staring of all at them. Later information places the name of the Johnson Inn, as the Bellair home, a sign so stating, and the man that built the home and first lived there was a Mr. Bremmen, not an inn keeper.

The social life of the early Bellair was confined to Literaries, spelling bees, corn huskings, wood piling and knitting or weaving bees. Literaries were the most usual public gathering causes. Historical debates have been recorded here. Henry Clay Dean, and many historical figures have taken part in debates in old Bellair. Pre-Civil War days were marked by very hot debates. Opinions differed greatly in different families. Bellair was on the line of the escaping black man during the terrible days of the Civil War, and evidences are that older folks here unable to take part in the actual fighting were very much interested in the advancement of the Union cause, while others were similarly interested in the Confederate cause, as was no doubt the case in all border communities. We find that the bushwhackers had business in this community or very near during the latter days of the war. Older ones tell of the terror spread at the approach of the Quantrill band to Cincinnati, and on the trail leading to Hibbsville.

The nationalities of the early settlers of Bellair was very much mixed, perhaps the greater number coming from Virginia, Indiana and Ohio, English, Irish, Scottish and German predominating. One family that we have not mentioned coming from Canada in the 60's, the Clemens family, settling as others on the open prairie to the northeast of Bellair, after living in different locations around. Mr. Clemens was known as a wonderful farmer, a land builder, his family, John, George, Dave, Bob, Alfred, Charles and Thomas, there were several girls, are all deceased except David, Bob, Alfred and Charles, all living in Appanoose county now. They had a large part in the early as well as the modern life of Numa and Bellair. Another name to be added to the early high school, or college as it was called in Bellair, was Professor Trueblood, an excellent instructor.

In the eighties, N. C. Blackburn, A. P. Stanton, Add Veach, A. E. Arbogast, J. W. Hibbs, Elias Fox, George Riggler, George Athy, B. F. Bradley, Al Jones, Lon Hendershot, Ike Colter, and some others were the regular business men of Numa, in every line of business from carpentry to barbering. John Colter was section boss at that time. From the time of the building of the railway, the section boss list is as follows: Lafe Welch, John Murray, Frank Michaelson, Patsy McGraw, Jim Brown, John Colter, Andy Chumbley, to the present incumbent Mr. King. The first depot building was built on the south side of the main tracks, between the main and only side track. Later it was moved to the north side where it now stands, and was surrounded by a wide wooden platform.

A Christmas Custom

Some of the older residents now living, and thinking of the recent Christmas season, recall with pleasure, one method that for many years was kept a custom in Bellair and Numa. Several of the elder residents were educated in vocal schools, and the singing school was very common, the writer being one who was privileged to secure this education. The Hudsons, the Dukes, the Russells and the Foxes, were families that were leaders in this vocation, and many happy evenings,

as well as useful, were spent in learning the reading and application of music vocally. This naturally developed the custom of Christmas caroling. Many folks ask what that is. It is selecting a number of fine old Christmas carols and a company of trained singers and near midnight on Christmas eve going from house to house and singing under the windows. I have been privileged to be a part of this when just a small boy and what a joy it was—not so much the singing but to have the folks get out in their night clothes, open the door and invite the singers in. Fried apple pie, cup custard, apples, doughnuts, cake—everything that could be produced in the good old way—and then on to another home, singing until daylight. I remember one night, going to the George Holshouser home, boarding house and livery service, and the company had two especially fine singers—Phyl Squire, and Howell Davis, Byron Humphries, and many other equally good singers. The first song broke out on the still night air, "While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks By Night." Suddenly the upstairs window flew up, and Mr. and Mrs. Holshouser stood in the gloom of the room until the song ended. Suddenly Mr. Holshouser spoke: "I 'hought it was angels in Heaven singing, folks come in, everything we have is at your disposal." That night we ended at the Jakie Norris home north of town, tired, happy, and too full of good things to really travel.

Such things as these made up the life of our pioneers, they who blazed the trail, built Bellair as a step to Numa.

Another family that had much to do with the early life of Bellair, and later in Numa, was the Robert Ware family, living east and north of Bellair. Robert Ware coming to Appanoose County in '48, later settling on the home place 'hat is still held by the family, his good wife still living. Carl, for many years a trusted employee of the C.R.I.&P. railway, as claim agent, Emma, wife of Anderson Langford and Elmer, all still living. Another family that had a large part in the history was the Frank Leek family living southwest of Bellair, and Mrs. J. W. Hibbs, being a daughter, Charles Leek, now of Plano, and Mrs. Nellie Ware of Centerville, and Mrs. McElwee, also of Centerville.

Pair of Boots a Year

The clothing of the early Bellair resident was almost entirely "home made," weaving, knitting, carding and spinning being recorded in almost every home. Boots were universal, and it was a lucky youngster that ever got the second pair of boots in a year. Tallow greasing and the "boot jack" were common home necessities, candles for lights, the candle snuffer in common use, (the writer still retains the old snuffer of the family), and the first use of oil for lights carried amusing stories, it being very scarce and high. Buying in small quantities was common, many times stored in pint whiskey bottles. One case is told of a home where this was the case and the husband was prone to drink. He secured a pint of alcohol, hid it behind the clock, and the good wife, Aunt Rhoda, decided to confiscate it, and then placed the bottle of kerosene in its place, also for hiding. The result was that Uncle Ad slipped to take a nip, heard Aunt Rhoda coming and gulped, the kerosene went down before he could stop it, and fear gripped both hearts as Aunt Rhoda appeared on the scene. What to do? Aunt Rhoda ran out on the street, and as luck would have it she came face to face with a Seymour physician, who was also under the influence of liquor. "Oh Doctor," cried Aunt Rhoda, "what will we do? Uncle Ad has gone and drunk coal oil, what will we do, what will we do?" The doctor weaved back to professional dignity and replied: "Now Madam, (hic) the scientific way to extract kerosene is by burning it out with a wick, let us proceed." Uncle Ad got along all right as the kerosene was not stored in those days in metal containers.

The Shooting Matches

Hunting was naturally a real part of the pioneer life of Bellair. Deer were plentiful, some living recall seeing deer in the back yard. Wild turkeys and records of wild pigeon are to be found as plentiful. The last wild turkey to be shot in this neighborhood that can be found, was a large gobbler shot by O. P. Russell, on the hill just east of the present Russell home, and on the J. B. Arbogast farm, it being

shot with an old cap and ball rifle. Shortly before this last known turkey was killed, a party killed five, in some spreading elm trees just north of the Robert Ware home, shooting by moonlight, this one turkey escaping, and later trailed.

Thanksgiving and Christmas were regularly used dates for shooting matches. Competition in marksmanship was very keen, and stories of the prowess of such men as Cap Harvey, William Fox, George Johnson and others is family lore, later being carried down to P. F. Miller, O. P. Russell, J. A. Dukes, William Fox, Jr., and others. Hogs, cattle, turkeys, geese, even corn meal, were prizes to assist in the family larder. Most of the shooting was stationary targets, rifle work, and very few chances were taken of shooting on the fly.

The timberland north of Bellair is now a part of the Numa cemetery, and north to the creek was a favorite place for public gatherings, commonly called reunions. Platforms were erected there, permanently, and many were the public get-togethers, sometimes lasting for a week, with many concessions, etc. Some noted speakers have gathered thousands there to discuss public affairs. It became a mecca for Gypsies, and many wandering groups spent days there, to the detriment of the surrounding residents.

Perhaps the first burial ground near Bellair was the Motto Graveyard, named from one of the earliest settlers to the southeast, and near the Hoover homestead, also early settlers, both families having much to do with early history of the community. Later the Livingood cemetery and Miller, Farmer, and Adamson cemeteries followed; Livingood east, Miller west, Adamson southeast, and Farmer southwest of Bellair. About this time the Hibbsville cemetery was laid out, and is still in use today, and well kept.

Bellair gave many to the Union during the Civil War, many did not come back, many did, and the pride of the community for many years was the march of the Civil War veterans with the faded blue uniforms and brass buttons. From the earliest date, colored folks have not been residents of Numa to any extent. Some servants in homes were recorded in the earlier days, and one colored barber resided in Numa later.

Indications are that Bellair received its name from one of the earliest and vast land holders in the township, Alexander Bell, known as Dr. Bell. This is not certain but probable. No one that we can find so far, can absolutely verify. Mormons had a real part in the history but no direct records are to be had of the Mormon stay in the neighborhood except that of the passage south of Bellair, and a short time spent in camp on the south Shoal bottoms directly south of Numa. No doubt this was just a branch of the main passage trail.

From Semi-Weekly Iowegian, Friday, March 28, 1913

NUMA IS ON THE MAP WITH A
LOT OF PUSH AND PROGRESS

The Big Coal Industry Runs Throughout the Year

Extra Good Buildings Here

Stores Are Well Housed and Town Has Some Attractive Homes
For Its People, Good Schools and Churches

Numa has had an incorporated existence of less than four years, but it is a hummer for its age and now has close to 1,000 people. Of course it has had a much longer existence than four years, but it was only recently that it had reached such proportions as to make incorporation advisable. It is located on the main line of the Rock Island from Chicago to Kansas City. Coal mining is the leading industry and accounts for much of the growth and prosperity of the town. It has a good farming community about it too, and does a nice country trade. The business men



North Side of Square, 1915

of Numa are of the pushing kind. What they do they believe in doing well. They have some excellent business buildings and public improvements that speak well for their progressiveness.

Town Officials

The town is presided over by J. W. Hibbs as mayor, Ben Rick, clerk, Bert Arbogast, treasurer, and councilmen as follows: Sam Hibbs, J. R. Boyd, J. H. Harris, Pete Agazzi, and the marshal is Jack Todd. They give city affairs careful attention.

The school teaching force is composed of M. J. Cain, principal, in charge of the 7th, 8th and 9th grades. Alice Kumpp has the 4th, 5th, and 6th grades. Mabel Harris has the 2nd and 3rd grades and Grace Mackey the 1st, with a total enrollment of 202. The board members are S. D. Hibbs, president; A. E. Arbogast, J. R. Boyd, Abe Compton, J. B. Arbogast, secretary; and J. B. Wertz, treasurer. The school house is 40x70, one story, four rooms. The building was remodeled about two years ago to provide for the growing attendance.

Talking New Church

The Christian Church has a membership of about 125. They have been without a pastor about two months. Rev. Althide was the last pastor. George Roach, Sr., is Sunday School superintendent with about 90 scholars. They have bought three lots near the Methodist Church, on which they will move and remodel the old church, or build a new \$3,000 church. The Ladies Aid is actively looking after funds at the present time. This church gave a very enjoyable box supper and social Tuesday night at the hall, the proceeds going to the new church fund.

The M. E. church membership is 56. This church has a good location and pastor. The church has an excellent Sunday School with Elsworth Thackery as superintendent. The congregation is a live one which has interested itself in the improvement of the building. The U.M.W.A. has taken a decorated art window, the Ladies Aid one and the Sunday School one with others by other parties. It will have all stained glass windows. The Ladies Aid society is a hustling one and during the

past year has accomplished even more than the other membership in caring for the finances.

The Lodges

The K. of P. lodge is a prominent one here. It owns the hall over the Hibbs store. It meets Saturday nights. Andy Stanton is Noble Grand, G. Rhodes is V. G., H. L. Johnson M.F.S., Charles Leek Treasurer, M. O. Doggett K of R&S. The Pythian Sisters meet the first and third Wednesdays in the same hall. Mrs. J. W. Martin is M E C. Mrs. Merl Rhodes P C. Mrs. A. P. Stanton E S. Mrs. David Clemens E J. P. F. Miller Protector, Abe Compton D of C. Mrs. Andrew Seath M of F. Mrs. Charles Leek Manager. Mrs. Walter Arbogast Outer Guard. They have taken in two candidates thus far this year and have another for the next meeting. Their average attendance is about 33. The A O U W's were organized last July with 26 and now have 55. They meet the second and third Mondays in the K of P hall. This claims to be one of the best insurance orders in the state. The officers are D. A. Shelton, M W, Charles Leek, foreman, Grant Smith, overseer, C. L. McKeehan, financial secretary, Ira Long, receiver. The Foresters meet Saturdays following the 5th and 20th. They are known as Court Maple Leaf No. 26. and have a membership of 280. The officers are Tony Carso, Chief Ranger, Lewis Vinzer, Fin. Sec., John Strapazon Rec. Sec. This is an extraordinarily active lodge as its membership shows. The Woodmen have a good lodge in Numa too, this lodge being one that usually makes a success in aligning many members with it.

U. M. W. of A.

The Miners' Union is one of the most flourishing in this nation. They have 460 members and own an \$8,000 property. Their building is of brick 40x80, two stories, with the Martin store occupying the rooms below, and a fine opera house above. It was built about four years ago. Charles Morton is president, Andrew Seath Fin. Sec., B. S. Sexton Rec. Sec., and Charles Leek, Treasurer.

State Savings Bank

The Numa State Savings Bank was incorporated Nov. 23, 1911. with a capital stock of \$15,000. On opening the deposits were \$873.37 in addition to the capital stock. At the present time the deposits are \$32,000 with \$1 350 surplus and undivided profits. They have a Mosler safe with triple time lock. They own their own building 22x40, a good one with glass front. J. A. Bradley is president, J. E. Beer vice president, I. L. Long, cashier, and directors are J. W. Hibbs, J. E. Beer, J. A. Bradley, George Arbogast, Bert Arbogast, L. E. Henderson, and I. L. Long. The bank has had the efficient care of I. L. Long as cashier for a little over a year, during which time it has doubled its business. It is now in a flourishing condition, and is filling a need in the community which the people appreciate.

Good New Hotel

Numa is especially blessed with hotel facilities. The Frances is located in the Hibbs brick block. D. A. Shelton is proprietor. This hotel was constructed along modern lines and is cared for in a modern way. It has 14 rooms above, 3 rooms and basement below. It is heated by hot water and lighted by an acetylene system thru-out. The furnishings are uniform, the beds being handsome brass ones. The building has a sewer system, lavatories and all such conveniences. The manager, D. A. Shelton, came from Mendota, Mo., where he had been with the milling company about ten years. He makes a splendid landlord and his wife ably looks after things so that everybody receives the best attention. It is open day and night and is popular with the public. The Gideons have supplied the rooms with Bibles.

Coal Industries

The Martin Block Coal Co. owns 131 acres of land and have 480 acres of deeded coal. They employ about 155 men and hoist about 300 tons a day. They load an average of about 175 cars per month. The top of the tippie is 187 feet from the coal. It is 37 feet from the ground to the top of the tippie. This mine has been running 2 years and 2 months, a mile east of town. It loads three distinct grades of coal at one dumping, the commercial chunk, railroad egg, and nut. It has three switches, loading three cars at once. The main shaft is 8x14½, the air shaft 6x12. It owns 10

houses near the shaft. Business last year amounted to \$110,000. The mine has hopper scales and 73 feet of track scales. Dr. J. L. Sawyers is president, J. W. Martin general managers, secretary and treasurer, H. W. Fox superintendent and boss, William John assistant, James Farnsworth is engineer, William Stroud top boss, and Ira B. Johnson weighman. This mine is doing a thriving business and is well managed and conducted in all its features.

The Centerville Block Coal Co. operates Mine No. 2. This company has been in business 31 years with this mine. It turns out 250 tons a day, and employs about 160 men. It uses the pan scales and two track scales. It loads about six cars per day, mainly railroad coal. It loads three grades of coal, commercial, egg and nut, having the most up-to-date equipment for handling and loading it. It has an elevator engine to hoist nut coal from the ground to a bin on top of the tippie which holds about two car loads, and from this cars may be filled by a chute. It has between 500 and 600 acres of coal. A. Dargavel is superintendent, William Allen pit boss, Bert Arbogast top boss, Walter Davis engineer. The haulage is done by the tail rope and mule process. The mine produced about 700 cars the past year and paid out \$50,000 in wages.

The Numa Block Coal Co. No. 1 is one of the biggest mines in the county and has been in operation about 17 years. This mine is a big producer, shipping out about 1500 cars of coal a year, and did about \$175,000 business. The average production is 400 to 500 tons per day. The mine is equipped with three boilers and about 200 men are employed. It has good hopper and track scales, has a self dumper, box car loader, and car over attachment. It uses the Jeffrey steel fan. It turns out three grades over its screens. It has a steam dirt engine that hoists 'he dirt to the top of the dump at an angle of about 35 degrees, over a track now 400 feet long. This makes the dirt pile about 150 feet high. A. G. Widmer, of Centerville, is general manager of the mine, having other mining interests elsewhere also, and Pete Thomas is superintendent. He is a capable man in this line, being superintendent also of the Big Jim at Seymour and the Streepy mine. J. R. Boyd is pit boss, George Roach assistant, S. D. Hibbs is weighman, B. O. Buck engineer, Wilbur Briggs fireman and Dan Reader, straw boss.

The Numa mines are all producers of railroad coal, which means that instead of having an intermittent run during the cold season they run the entire year, the Rock Island taking their product.

Numa Stores

The J. W. Martin department store is a prominent retail institution. Mr. Martin has been in business about 15 years in Numa. He carries a general merchandise stock. He is located in 'he brick miners' union building, main store 40x86, basement under all, and in this he carries an up-to-date stock of such variety as to please the 'rade. He has about \$12 000 of goods on hand and keeps it turning so as to do about \$54 000 business a year as last year's sales indicate. He takes produce at the highest market prices and does a nice country trade. T. P. Martin, bro'her of J. W., is special salesman, Matt Followell and his wife are clerks. John P. Harris is bookkeeper and typewriter.

J. W. Martin & Son have a good hardware and implement store. They are located on the northwest corner of the square in a building 22x20, and two ware rooms 16x24, well filled with all kinds of hardware. They have been in business about two years and carry a \$6,000 stock and do about a \$20,000 business. This has been one of the most rapid growing institutions of the town. It carries a full line of shelf hardware, and paint, with about a \$500 wall paper stock in season. W. B. Russell is general manager, Robt. Clemens clerk. They own the building.

J. B. Wertz has a thriving general merchandise store. He has been in business four years in a building 26x60 with a ware room 12x60. He carries a \$5 000 stock and did a \$31,000 business the past year. He owns his building on the northwest corner of the square. Mr. Wertz came to Numa about 19 years ago and during that time has been with J. W. Martin about two years, with J. W. Hibbs about three years, and then went into business for himself. John Vira and P. A. Gazzi are his clerks.

He looks after the interests of his customers, handles poultry and produce at right prices, and is a popular merchant of the town.



J. W. Hibbs began business in Numa way back in 1883, so he is one of the stand-bys of the town. He owns his building, 28x60, with a basement under all, and a ware room 14x20. This store carries about a \$6,000 stock of goods, and did a \$25,000 business the past year. The last five months have been specially lively in this store, the best of the year. He handles a good line of goods, takes butter, poultry, etc. at the best prices the market warrants, and aims to please those who deal with him. Glen Miller is his special clerk, and Matt Gasharetta also clerks for him.

Mr. Hibbs owns the new hotel block built the past year at a cost of \$5,000, containing the Hotel Frances, a barber shop and restaurant. This building was built to be the pride of the town by Mr. Hibbs, as was noted above in the description of the hotel. It is 44x56, two story of brick.

Mr. Hibbs also owns a fine dwelling 28x32, two stories, located not far from his store, also heated with hot water, has sewerage, and acetylene light as does the hotel. It is a nine room house. His brother, S. D. Hibbs, has a similar house, built and finished much the same.

James C. Forsythe runs the drug store. He has been in business about two years and has the only drug store in the town. He is a regular registered pharmacist, handles all kinds of drugs and patent medicines, wall paper and paints. The building belongs to his father, Robt. C. Forsythe, of Mystic. The main building is 12x34, the ware room 12x18. Mr. Forsythe has been in the drug business at What Cheer and different parts of the state about 14 years. During the summer he serves refreshments.

The Farrington telephone runs into the Hibbs store where it has an exchange. The Mutual central is located in the old J. W. Hibbs residence with Mrs. Anna Cole as operator. The Bell line is located in the same building. Good service is furnished over these lines to all the surrounding country.

J. W. Fox has a general merchandise store. He has been in business in Numa 18 years, so is one of the older business men. He has two store rooms 18x30 and 13x30. His home is on the same property. He keeps on hand about a \$2,000 stock and does a nice business. Mrs. Fox carries a line of millinery goods. The store has

a very satisfactory trade.

J. E. Fox runs the city restaurant known as "The Little Gem." It is a new enterprise opened up only last Friday. He is in a building 12x14. He runs a short order house and serves up tasty things to eat.

The Hotel Frances restaurant has been bought of Charles Moden by J. A. Appleby, formerly of Mystic. Mr. Appleby is getting things in readiness to open it up as a first class restaurant, getting some new fixtures and things including a soda fountain. It will be open in about a week. It is located in the new brick Hibbs block.

The Hotel Frances barber shop, between the hotel lobby and the restaurant, will be occupied within a few days by an accomplished Italian barber who comes from Des Moines.



J. A. Norris Meat Market

J. A. Norris has been running a meat market for the past five years. He carries all kinds of fresh and salt meats and takes good care of his customers. He owns the building 22x40 and has it equipped to handle his meats in a sanitary manner. He buys butter, eggs, poultry and hides at the best market prices which he pays cash for. This is the only meat market in town at present.

Frank Azzalin & Co. lost their meat market Monday last by fire. It was on the northwest corner of the square and burned about 9:30 in the evening. How the fire started is not known. Everything was lost, and it is not reported what will be done about rebuilding.

Dr. U. L. Hurt has been in Numa since 1895 and has been identified with its growth and progress. He has a nice practice in and about Numa, and also accommodates the public in assisting in various business transactions and real estate deals. He has a building 22x40, occupied by his office and the post office.

The postmistress is Mrs. H. F. Kewley, who has been in the office 15 years. G. A. Norris carries Route One with 75 patrons and J. E. Dershem Route Two with about 90 patrons. Of course they handle a lot of Iowegians among other mail. The post office people are an accommodating bunch who try to take good care of Uncle Sam's and the people's interests.

W. H. Shew has the north side barber shop, which he has run about six years. It has two chairs, with Matt Followell and his helper. The shop is in a building 16x24 owned by E. J. Eddy. The barbers here try to do their work well and no longer wait.

The O. K. Barber Shop is under the management of C. L. McKeehan, who has

run it about two years. His assistant is C. I. Ostlund, and they try to make pleased customers by their class of work. They are in a building on the west side owned by Jean Ostino. There is a dry cleaning pantorium in connection. They also handle laundry, sending out on Mondays.

T. C. Albertson has an electric picture show in the Miners opera house. It has been running about two years and handles a good class of films with occasional vaudeville. It is run by electric dynamo. The dynamo is located in the back of the building, where he will build additional room and put in a grist mill to be opened up in April and do all kinds of grinding.

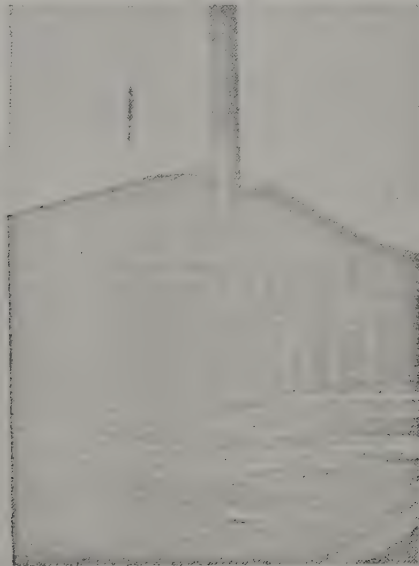
William John has a livery and feed stable back of the Hotel Frances. He has four good teams and one auto to take care of the public. He has been running here about two years. The barn is 50x60, owned by J. W. Hibbs. Special attention is given to traveling men.

J. H. Harris has a blacksmith and repair shop. He has been in Numa a large part of the time for 18 years. He is in a building 18x36, and a ware room 18x26. This spring he is putting in a stock of implements, buggies and autos, the R C H car. He does a general line of blacksmith and repair work and is a good workman. He is on the north side of the square and does a prosperous business.

Crowder & Baker have a new blacksmith and repair shop that opened about March 1. They are prepared for all classes of work, such as wagon and buggy repairs, auto work and the like. They are in a new building 25x40 near the livery barn. They do horseshoeing, all kinds of plow work and the like. They make it an object to turn out good work. Mr. Crowder was with the Numa Block Coal Co. about seven years as blacksmith, and Mr. Baker is the old electrician from Baker slope. They expect to install soon a disc grinder, emery stone and wood lathe.

E. W. Porter is painter and paper hanger and decorator. He has been there 35 years, and owns a good residence. He had a fine run of work last year and prospects are good for this.

Dave Clemens is carpenter and contractor. He does all kinds of house building, and his 15 years experience fit him to do his work right. He employs about five men during the season. He owns several pieces of town property. He did a good business last season and has several nice contracts ahead now.



Bill King and Son Sawmill

C. F. Leeper, carpenter and contractor, lives about a half mile north of Numa. He has been in this line there about two years, does general house building and is a good workman, turning out good jobs.

Lewie Vinzon and John Marcon are cement workers and have a lot of good sidewalks and other work to show for it.

The station agent is C. F. Hoover. A big shipping business is handled out of Numa. Last year this place alone shipped out 2787 cars of which 2782 were coal. This would make more than 100 ordinary sized trains which is some business to develop from one station. They received 78 cars of freight during the year for Numa.

F. W. Harvey has a good 250 acre farm adjoining Numa on the south. It is known as the Miles Wilson farm. Mr. Harvey has been on it about a year and a half. He makes a specialty of Red Duroc hogs and is an enterprising and up to date farmer.

A. P. Stanton is one of the retired farmers of this section. He owns 240 adjoining town on the south and west. He has made a success of farming and is now less active than formerly, although he lives on the farm.

D. W. Stanton and Dan Grundy run a local mine on the Stanton farm, supplying coal for that section of country. Their shaft is 60 feet deep, hoisted by horse power.

Charles Boden is leader of the excellent Numa band that has pleased audiences in the past with its open air concerts and on special occasions.

Bill King and son operate a large saw mill.

From History of Appanoose County 1878

NUMA

History shows that Iowa was first discovered by Marquette and Joliet June 25, 1673. By acts of congress it was a part of the Louisiana Purchase. On June 12, 1838 the territory of Iowa was erected. Indian tribes carried on wars within the territory. No warring activity has been encountered in our county but many tribes lived in this township. Legends, arrowheads, and grave markers prove that Indians were our first inhabitants.

The county of Appanoose was settled as early as 1840 by Col. James Wells. Not until October 1, 1846, was it organized as an individual governing unit by the Territorial Legislature. Claims were staked and pioneer settlers worked together to create the villages and plot the towns. Bellair was created October 7 1854, by Alexander Jones and was surveyed and platted by John Potts. It is situated between waters of Shoal and Cooper Creeks. (Near the present cemetery location at this writing 1960). Jackson and Washington Streets run north and south and Main Street crosses them. There were just twenty lots. J. L. Makins started a store in 1855. A post office was established in 1859.

The building of the Chicago and Southwestern Railroad in 1870-71 about one-half mile away from the village transferred its business to the station established just south. This gave rise to the town of Numa.

Numa was laid out by G. R. Huston and E. E. Harvey and acknowledged by them March 13, 1871. It was surveyed by J. F. Stratton, one of the earliest settlers who lived near Centerville.

The business of the town was represented by a well-stocked grocery store, a physician's office, and a blacksmith's shop. Quite a number of men in the vicinity were engaged in quarrying and hauling rock to the depot, the Rock Island Railroad being the purchaser.

The first sermon preached in the neighborhood was by the Rev. Mr. Hayrus, a Cumberland Presbyterian minister, probably in 1853.

A two story schoolhouse was erected in Bellair in 1857, and a flouring mill was erected in Numa earlier.

On July 17, 1875, the people of Numa and Bellair, as well as people from surrounding neighborhoods, met to have a picnic in a two-story building just erected by G. W. Athey.

SOME FACTS CONCERNING OUR EARLIEST CHURCHES

The Methodist Episcopal was first formed in Bellair in 1857. In 1864 a stone building was purchased and used until 1874, when a new one was built in Numa, cost \$600. The church was dedicated in 1874.

The Christian Church was formed in 1858, the first members being Henry Adamson, Dr. Ball and wife, Dr. Morris and wife, and James Steward and John Steward and families.

A House of Worship 24x36 feet in size was erected in Bellair in 1871 at a cost of \$1,200.00 and was dedicated in the fall of the year. At one time there were 200 members, but society was under a cloud, and the church was closed.

LODGES

The Masonic Bellair Lodge No. 133A, F. & A. M., was moved to Numa in 1871. There were 35 members in all. The lodge met on the Wednesday on or before full moon.

INCIDENTAL EVENTS

Charles Thompson, while investigating the condition of Adam Kellar's coal bank near Numa, August 9, 1874, fell 15 feet down the shaft and was suffocated by "damp" before he could be reached.

NUMA 1960

The fascinating story of our town is filled with all the drama, history, and tragedy of any modern TV western.

The coming of the railroad, the discovery of rich coal beds, the period of depression following each war, the influx of the immigrants from the foreign countries, all are the major factors which brought to life the dramatic events of our town of Numa.

We have arranged our brochure to show the historical growth and decline in the order of which they have occurred.

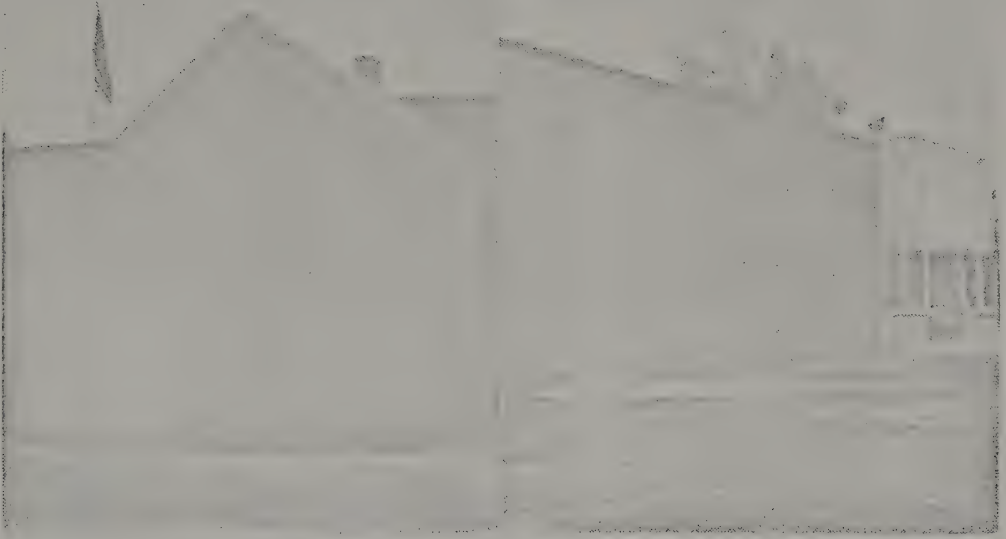
The stories of Bellair and Hibbsville have a direct bearing on our community's life as the coming of the railroad caused each of the historical communities to become a vital part of our town, Numa.

Hibbsville gave us a lasting line of families who have served our community since 1871. Long before Numa became a town, J. W. Hibbs operated a store in "Hibbsville". It became a trading settlement for early settlers, where their groceries, grist, merchandise was obtained.

(Hibbsville Cemetery is now located north of the Fred Langford home. The actual town set back east in field from Langford home.)

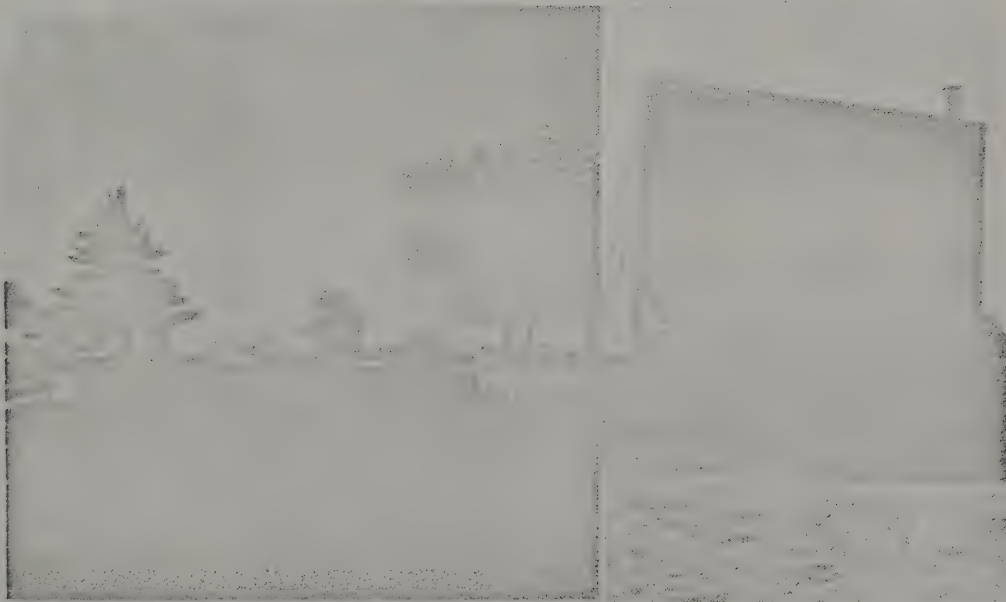
Coming with the railroad in 1871 was the first J. W. Hibbs store in Numa, a small one-story wooden structure which served as a general merchandise store. In 1896 the brick building, which is now the St. William's Catholic Church, was the second store. A "blind carpenter" by the name of Mr. Carr, under direction of J. W. Hibbs, erected this building. The clay for the brick was obtained from the banks of old Cooper Creek. The burning kiln was located on the Claud Lepper farm. Notable too was the fact that the first gasoline engine in this part of the state was used in giving power to cut the lumber from the timber. The late W. B. Russell furnished the elevator power with a horse to get the lumber to the second floor construction. When the building was finished it was used by the Widmer mines as a company store. But the union came and forced the company to close again. J. W. Hibbs entered the store until his age and health forced him to retire. His son Ted E. and Lula took over the store. J. W. Hibbs served the community as city official, business manager, financier and school board member.

Mr. and Mrs. Ted Hibbs, like his father, served our community in every capacity. Ted Hibbs and daughter Jackie were hosts to all of this community. From provid-



Numa Postoffice

Hibbs Red & White Store



Numa Cemetery

Numa Broiler House

ing food, finance, leadership, and enthusiasm they gave us wonderful entertainment. Ted was a member of the "Night Hawk" and "Flapper Five" dance band. Later, he operated a tavern, "The Avalon," on the second floor of the old Hotel Frances. Early in the '30s Ted sold the store to the Thrift Store of Seymour. They are now located in California, and later in May will be on a World tour of Europe. Jackie, now Mrs. Abe Barron, and family live in Des Moines.

In 1932, the Jimmie Hibbs, Lulu, Dorothy and Bobby opened a store north of their present home. Lulu had been raising chickens and had planned to expand her business by building another chicken house. A small structure was started, addition was made by moving building in. Some family and friends encouraged them to open a grocery store. The store opened under the name of the Red and White Store and has continued to operate. Expansion has taken place. The store is most modern, with groceries, meats, hardware, drygoods, etc. Since high school graduation, Dorothy has been a part of the store. The Jimmie Hibbs Store is a vital part of our community. Mrs. Hazel Thompson is chairman of the Reunion, but the Hibbs, Lulu, Jim, and Dorothy, are doing the big job of caring for details of the coming event.

The beautiful modern home of the Jimmie Hibbs is an outstanding landmark in our community. So we can truly say that through three great wars there has been a Hibbs in Numa. Present indications are that when the town returns to farmland, a Hibbs will be on it.

Our post office across the street from the store is also a new landmark. It was the former Perry Miller property. With the coming of the black top of the Numa-Centerville (Hiway 277) road, Gale Wilson, postmaster, decided to locate there. The story of our post office personnel and locations would fill a book. Elsewhere we have listed them from 1857 to 1929. At one time two rural routes went out of the Numa office. The only rural carrier I can remember is Henry Fox. He served 42 years, starting with teams and later years various cars. Raymond Doggett carried the mail for a few years and now Jasper Frogge has been our routeman for a number of years. Jasper has been most helpful to some of the older people and has personally erected boxes for them.

From National Archives & Records, Washington, D. C. (A. Hetcht)

POST OFFICES

A post office was established in Numa on December 18, 1857. Names of postmasters who served are listed as follows:

Milas Holshouser—Dec. 18, 1857
R. R. McGuire—March 2, 1865
George R. Sidles—July 26, 1865
Elijah B. Harvey—Sept. 5, 1866
William R. Stewart—Sept. 21, 1868
William Farmer—June 17, 1869
F. Y. Frost—Sept. 20, 1869
George R. Houston—Feb. 9, 1871
Lewis N. Atherton—Feb. 1, 1873
John —————, Jr.—Feb. 7, 1867
H. C. Blackburn—May 21, 1861
Elias Fox—May 23, 1881
James W. Hibbs—Dec. 11, 1895
Elias Fox—July 16, 1889
James Hibbs—July 14, 1893
Hannah F. Kewley—July 23, 1897
Bert Arbogast—Aug. 26, 1914
William Russell—April 9, 1923-1929

NUMA METHODIST CHURCH

The town of Bellair was originally laid out on part of the land now occupied by Numa. The first Methodist Episcopal society was formed at Bellair in 1857, the

first class being Asa Thornburg and wife, William and Celia Fox, Berry Steward and wife, Russell Matkins and wife. The first pastor was Jesse Hill. The first church building was a store structure purchased and converted to church use in 1864. This served until 1874, when the original part of the present structure was built. In 1878, the stewards and trustees were Jacob Norris, Rev. Henry Blackburn and W. W. Elliott. Rev. Henry Blackburn was Sunday School Superintendent in that year, with H. C. Dukes, assistant and secretary. Teachers were James John, W. W. Elliott, Eliza Jones, Mrs. Libbie Stiles, Mrs. K. L. Winn, and Mrs. Elliott. The attendance at that time averaged fifty.

Starting in the early 1900's, the youth of the church joined together in the Epworth League. In 1901, the League had 23 members, with Dessie Adamson being president. All who served as officers in that year are now deceased except Mrs. Rebecca Martin, Mrs. Laura Bradley Porter, and Mrs. Marie Arbogast Gillespie. The Ladies Aid was organized that year, with Mrs. Martin as president. She and Mrs. Warnicket were active in raising the sum of \$400.00 when the church building was remodeled in 1923. Fannie Tennant was the first Secretary and Treasurer of the Ladies Aid. In 1948 the Ladies Aid was succeeded by the Woman's Society of Christian Service and Mrs. Martin was the first president of that organization. Mrs. Mary Doggett is president at the present time, with eleven members in the society. Throughout the years the ladies of the church have been of great assistance in carrying forward its work. Their efforts helped raise \$250.00 of the \$500.00 which paid off a mortgage in 1948. The Epworth League was succeeded by the Methodist Youth Fellowship. At one time, this group functioned as a joint group with the Numa Christian church, with Bill Wells and Joann Doggett as leaders.

A number of revival services have been held at the Numa Methodist Church. In 1885, when Rev. Powelson was pastor, Rev. Hogle, assisted in the music by a Sister Sharp, held a meeting of three or four weeks in length. In 1902, when Rev. Shook was pastor, John Wesley Holland was guest preacher. Rev. Holland was known as the radio pastor of "The Little Brown Church of the Air," on a Chicago station. When Rev. J. C. Austin was pastor, he held a revival meeting in a tent, with the help of Rev. Porch in the singing. Rev. Austin also held a revival at Numa in 1946. Rev. Wildon Hyde of Ottumwa was speaker at one of the most recent series of services.

Although built in 1874, the church building appears to be much more recent, due to a number of remodelings. The most changes occurred in 1923, under the guidance of Rev. R. C. Rowe. Originally the pulpit had been in the west, then in the north end of the church. At that time it was changed to the south, with a small wing built on for that purpose. Rev. Rowe was personally responsible for the construction of the pulpit woodwork. The basement and the Sunday School rooms were added at that time.

The first church organist was Mrs. John Dukes. John Dukes was an active leader in the music program. Mrs. Celia Johnson, served as pianist for the church for many years, being the oldest member of the church who is still active in the church. Lois Beer, Ida Harper, Olah Martin Followell and many others have served as pianists through the years. Bert Johnson is now pianist for the church services, and Sandra Dove serves as Sunday School pianist. Neil Doggett is song leader and Sunday School superintendent.

W. B. (Bert) Russell was Sunday School superintendent for approximately forty years. Present enrollment is eighteen, with Grace Langford, Agnes Langford, and Neil Doggett serving as teachers.

A large number of pastors have served the Numa church over the period of the past century. Those of the first twenty years were: Hill, Clark, Morey, Boyles, Miller, Thatcher, Stevenson, Swanson, Mann, Orr, and Hunter. In following years the roster included Robbison, Powelson, Shane, Poole, Collier, Shook, Austin, Wilson, Comyn, Rowe, Butler, Witham, Coggeshall, World, Matheny, Knight, Davis, Polk, Henshaw, McClure, Moore, Buell, O'Dell, Caulver, Trostle, Hamilton, Ward, Kricher, Bergren and Croft. This list is not in chronological order, and some spellings may

be in error.

During the depression years of the 1930's and the war years of the 1940's, the population of Numa and other communities of Appanoose County began to decline. This made the serving of the smaller churches very difficult. For several years in the 1940's no pastor was appointed to the Cincinnati circuit. Numa has been on that charge, along with the former Simpson Chapel church, for most of its history. Jack McGuire, a native of Mystic, entered the ministry under the encouragement of Rev. M. R. Gonzalez, and preached some of his first sermons at Numa during the time when there was no regular pastor.

In 1947, the Appanoose County Methodist Larger Parish came about as the result of the concern which Rev. Lester Greenwood, the pastor at Centerville, and others had for the spiritual future of the smaller communities of Appanoose County where the Methodist Church appeared to have a responsibility. Harold Kirchenbauer was appointed to the newly organized Parish in 1947, after he had conducted a survey and study of county earlier in the year. It was under the leadership of Rev. Kirchenbauer that Numa and other churches of the Parish began to function more actively. He sought to have the pulpit filled regularly either by laymen or by young men in their first steps of preparing for the ministry. Laymen have made a great contribution to the Numa church by way of leadership in its services in recent years. Among the lay speakers at Numa have been Howard Guenther, Bob Wells, Kermit Gladfelder, and Lester Murdy. In the last ten years, the roster of those given definite and regular responsibility by either the Annual Conference or the Parish have been: Harold Kirchenbauer, Howard Guenther, Howard DeVore, Bob Wells, Cecil Wyant, Vernon Goff, Harold Hawkins, Lloyd Knouf, Sam Cox, and Glen Lochhead. Howard DeVore and Bob Wells alternated services with the Numa Christian church. Lloyd Knouf was assisted by Prof. G. W. Blackstone from University Park at Oskaloosa. The most recent pastor to live at Cincinnati was Rev. Cox. Rev. Goff lived in a trailer in the church yard and is remembered as the only pastor in recent years or within memory to make his residence in the community. Rev. Lochhead lives at Mystic.

The church has been newly redecorated and is adding new doors. The latest wedding to be held there was that of Bill Wells and Joan Doggett.

This information has been gathered by a committee consisting of Grace Langford, Mrs. Neil Doggett, Mrs. Rebecca Martin, Mrs. Celia Johnson, Mrs. Mattie Clemens, and Mrs. Dan Grundy. Mrs. Marie Arbogast also furnished information.



Muma Methodist Church



Numa Christian Church

CHRISTIAN CHURCH HISTORY

Records show that the small schoolhouse (1888) one room was the first church in Numa. Transferred from Bellair to Numa are a number of entries in the church book. From records of Dec. 20, 1888, the following were church officers: Bro. F. Doggett, president; M. Livengood, George Livengood, Melvin Knapp, H. T. Hockman, Trustees; Jesse McCannon, Clerk; Robert Ware, Treasurer; and J. Bryant, Secretary. Interesting reports were of church converts, fund raising activities, also that each member pledged a given amount each year.

On October 9, 1912, the congregation of the church bought of D. O. and A. E. O'Niel two acres of ground in Numa for erection of a new church building. Cost of the land was \$500.00. Interest was \$5.00.

From record of June 18, 1916: Dedicated by Dean A. M. Haggard and B. S. Denny.

Interesting yearly reports are made of Evangelistic meetings that have been held throughout the years until the present day.

A summary of the remodeling and present status of church:

In the past ten years the church has been redecorated in this manner: New built-in kitchen cabinets; gas stove and running water; new furnace, new carpeting, primary chairs, new songbooks, choir robes and wardrobe, book racks, and a new inside stairway to the basement.

We have about 100 members. About half are active in support of the church. About \$1400 was taken in the last year.

Our minister is Mrs. Hazel Thompson, preaching the last Sunday of every month. Sunday School Superintendent is John Broshar; Secretary, Yvonne Broshar; Pianist, Linda Marrone; Chorister, Betty Grundy; Librarian and Janitor, Earl Grenko. The Church Board is composed of Bill Dudley, Logan Anders, Max Barkley, Tony Grenko and Earl Grenko. Elders are Earl Grenko, James Harris, and Tony Grenko.

Church Secretary-Treasurer is Carol Dudley; average attendance, 45. Family Night is the first Monday night of every month, a co-op supper at 6:00 or 6:30 p.m.

Many beautiful weddings have occurred in this church, the last one being that of Alice Arbogast to Jordan Maye.

We are exceptionally proud of our young choir. It consists of about 30 young folk with robes, and they bring great joy to our church. Mrs. Betty Grundy is the director.

Sunday School classes are taught by Hazel Thompson, Jim Harris, Tony Grenko, Phyllis Grenko and Irene Arbogast.

Easter Sunday service 1989 brought the following new converts to church: Barbara Grundy, Dixie Broshar, John Broshar, Darlene Albertson, Gary Gatrell, Larry and Linda Ray.

CATHOLIC CHURCH

From a crude table altar in the Knoll family home in 1912 to the status of a church on May 27, 1947, is the story of the growth of St. William's parish.

In 1912, Father M. J. Kaufman, pastor of St. Mary's at Centerville, offered Mass for the people of Numa in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Knoll. A table was brought to serve as an altar. This table, used as the first altar, was a treasured relic in the home of Mrs. Antonia Lesac in 1935. Mrs. Lesac is now deceased.

Around 1935 Father Thomas Wolfe, then pastor of St. Mary's, took a census and then arranged to have Mass offered for the people twice a month--on every other Sunday. Fr. Wolfe had but one assistant. Therefore, Fr. Wolfe as Pastor and Fr. H. B. Geers as assistant cared for the parish in Centerville and the neighboring missions. Since there was no church, the second story of the Miners' Hall was used. The first church was named St. Thomas. This was really the first church and Mass was offered for the first time by Fr. H. B. Geers, the assistant in Centerville. Three years later the church was moved to the first floor of the same building and after one year had to vacate.

In 1938 the Fathers of the Precious Blood were asked to care for St. Mary's parish, Centerville, and its surrounding Missions. Father Stadher, C.P.P.S., was ap-

pointed pastor, and with him came three assistants to care for Appanoose County. During this time Mass was celebrated at Numa every Sunday in a converted restaurant, just across the street from the present church. This building was used until 1941. The building was sold, which meant that Numa was again without a church. Therefore, from 1941 to 1943 Mass was not celebrated in Numa. During that time the few people who had autos motored to Centerville to attend Mass.

In July 1943, the Rev. John J. Nels, C.P.P.S., the pastor of St. Mary's, Centerville, obtained the present church building from its joint owners. The first floor was the Ted Hibbs general store. It was purchased for \$350.00. The Knight of Pythias donated the second floor to the church with the condition that it be used as a church. A donation to buy this first floor was made with the stipulation that the church be named St. William's.

Before Mass could be celebrated in Numa, the entire interior had to be renovated. It was not until Christmas, 1943, the first time in two years, that Mass was celebrated in Numa. Since then, Mass has been celebrated every Sunday.

On Aug. 20, 1943, the Rev. Richard Rauth, C.P.P.S., was appointed at St. Mary's, Centerville, Fr. Rauth was given charge of Numa, Jerome and Cincinnati missions. At present, the Numa parish members about 120 adults and 47 children. Jerome had 60 adults with 30 children and Cincinnati had 55 adults with 25 children.

On May 27, 1947, The Most Rev. Ralph L. Hayes, Bishop of Davenport, raised St. William's mission to the status of a parish, with Jerome and Cincinnati as missions to St. William's. The Rev. Richard Rauth, C.P.P.S., who has had charge of these three missions the past four years, was appointed the first Pastor of St. William's parish and missions, which cover the southwestern part of Appanoose County.

For a rectory, we purchased the Geldo Lira home. This was ideally situated. The rectory joins the church property. Fr. Rauth, the first pastor, moved into the rectory on June 28. The erection of St. William's parish as a parish and the installation of the first pastor occurred on June 15, 1947. In 1947, the Mission Churches of Jerome and Cincinnati were taken care of from Numa.

Father Karl A. Wuest, C.P.P.S., was appointed pastor of St. William's on March 28, 1948, and served until 1957. In August, 1955, Father Wuest received a letter authorizing him to live at the hospital in Centerville, and the Parish rectory was sold in 1956.

In July, 1957, Father Everistus B. Olberding, C.P.P.S., was appointed pastor and now serves St. William's. Father Olberding is living at the St. Joseph Hospital at Centerville, Iowa, where he is the Chaplain.

The church has a beautiful electric organ, played by Susan Cerato. Altar boys are Joey Nobile and Tony Vola. The last beautiful wedding was that of Joyce Wilson and Bill Barbaglia.

PEOPLE AND HOUSING

One cannot believe how quickly the town has declined, and what its future holds depends on us. Starting at the corporation limits west was the Jake Norris farm. Here he operated a large ice house. The pond's ice was cut two or three times in winter and the ice was packed in sawdust. He furnished ice for all the townspeople and for local markets. He also operated the meat market for years. The family in its youth was a leader in the community and church. Lou was a teacher in the local schools for years. Mrs. J. A. Norris, now going on 97 years of age, makes her home with Edna (Mrs. David Lawrence) in Centerville. David is the minister of the Gospel Chapel there. Harold is in San Diego, Glen in Cherokee; Harry, a dentist in Eagle Grove; Paul has a grocery and meat market in Ottumwa (married Louella James, a homemaking teacher from the local schools.) Lou is in Des Moines. Veva is in Adel, Charles is on farm west of town, and Percy has the Oldsmobile and Cadillac business in Centerville. The coming of electricity took away the need for ice, and now only the pond and a few buildings are on the residence. Mrs. Jones and son, Mr. Hamburger, reside there. Many wonderful baptismal services were held at the Norris pond.



Norris Ice House and Pond

The next home was built by Mr. and Mrs. (Preacher) White. He was the minister of the Believers Church. We all remember what a wonderful church it was, and the many wonderful Bible teachings for all children of the community. The church set at the bottom lot of the now James Arbogast property. The home is now occupied by the Tony Furlin family.

The next home which was the home of the Millers is now occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Moore, local school custodian. Mrs. Moore is the former Henrietta Hagethorne. In what is now the Moore's cornfield were three houses going to the north. I recall the first being the home of Grandmother Hagethorne, the mother of Mrs. Moore and Ada Parks. Next was a small house occupied by a Jack Susin, who had a wooden leg. Then there was the home of Mrs. Mabel Stewart Barber and family. Across still north were two large two-story houses which belonged to the coal company. They were used as boarding houses. The one family of Carl Beretta were great friends. The elder Berettas are now back in the old country, and the children, Mary, Frank, and Minnie, are in the east. Across the road from them (where the railroad is now) were two more houses on the south. The families I recall who lived there were the Joe Rock family and the Wayne Leggs. On the corner lived the John Grando family, later the Jimmie Lackaboos. The next house was Mr. and Mrs. Dave Sexton and their family. Dave spent his last days at the Stanton Nursing Home in Numa. Mrs. Sexton's family was one of the largest, Mrs. Anderson and Mrs. Compton being her daughters. We all recall the warmth and closeness of the families. Next was the home of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Seath, Dorothy and Wayne. Wayne Seath was one of the early casualties of World War II. Going back south around the block was a small house occupied by the Poppyletties. Next was the home of Mr. and Mrs. Leek. Both houses were moved out. Next was the home of Mr. and Mrs. Jim Criddle and family. Mrs. Criddle was the mother of the Anderson and Criddle children. They were a large family of 13, Charley, Hazel, Lilly, Myrtle, Dick, Clarence, Paul, and Bonnie Criddle, and Jesse, Lily, Fern, Violet, Linwood, and George, Jr. This home is now occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Veryl Clemens and daughter Patricia Ann.

Next to this was a home occupied by Grisham Rodes, on the corner another house occupied by the V. Smiths. On up was a house occupied by the Ernie Phillips. Next was the home of Mr. and Mrs. Nate Farmer, now occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Gale Wilson, postmaster. Back to the corner was the home of the Fred Bennetts,

later the Clark Larges, and now the property of Mr. and Mrs. Nick Radavich.

On the south side of the road is our old home, the property of Mr. and Mrs. Anderson Langford and family, Hazel, Kathryn, Jean, Ann, Tillmon, and Ruby. Anderson Langford purchased the farm from Mr. Mooney in 1900, and lived there until his death in 1958. The home is now occupied by Kathryn Langford Radavich and family. Bordering the farm on the east was a settlement of six company houses



Typical 'Stringtown' House

known as Stringtown. Through the years a number of families lived here. The ones I remember were the Charley Farley family, the Ira Hambletons, Hesseltines, Pazzos, Ben Talbot, Marsiglio, and Musgroves. Many foreigners batched in these homes. Houses were later moved to Centerville, out by the Oakland cemetery. One is on the highway at the east edge of Centerville. The land was purchased later by the Tom Clemens family and for years grew large patches of strawberries. Later, the land was purchased by Anderson Langford for his son Tillmon. He moved the former Abe Compton house onto the farm. It is now the farm home of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Sayres and Barbara and Gary.

The next block east is occupied by the families of the Andy Stanton family. The first house, the home of Mr. and Mrs. Dan Grundy, Bob, Vienna, Ralph and Janet; next home of George Stanton, Oral, Madge and Claude. The old Andy Stanton farm is now owned by Mrs. Goldie Laske.

We have used this section of town to show how rapidly it changes now to open spaces.

Many of the older families we can recall who have lived all their lives here are the Harris Johnson family, the Doyle Arbogasts, the Charley Arbogasts, the Jimmie

Hibbs, Mrs. Charles Langford and Grace, the Raymond Doggetts, Mrs. Mattido, the John Susins, Mrs. Tiger Susin, Mrs. Angelina Susin and Mary, the John Presbyterios, the Gale Wilsons, the Tom Clemens, Veryl Clemens, the Ben Christies, the George Frogges, the Martins, the Tom and Bob Ross families, and the Bert Russells.

The farmers who live nearby who have always been a part of our community are the Roy Packards, Elmer Condras, the Tony Tometich families, John, Frank, and the girls, Carl Bungarners, the Micetiches, Logan Andrews, George McElvain, Harley Hibbs, Frank McCabe, the Fred Langfords, Claude Lowe, Herbert Hart, the Harls, the Kirklands, Hazel Fox, John Cerato, David Cerato, the Collins, Mains, Hoovers, and John and Vernie Stewart.

THE SQUARE AS I RECALL IT

We come across the railroad tracks and down a steep bank to a road and across on the west side was the home of Mr. and Mrs. Fox. Next was the J. W. Martin store, above which was the Miners' Hall. Next to it was a small store, a small house, the home of Mr. and Mrs. Richardson, then was the drugstore of Mr. Forsythe. A large grocery store on the corner was run by Johnnie Wright. Across to the north was the home, a large dark dwelling, of the George Anderson family. Across was the road to the east, a billiard and pool hall run by Chedene Agazzi and sons. Next was the doctor's office of U. L. Hurt, a grassy space, then there was the Pete Agazzi restaurant and pool hall, the Harris Blacksmith Shop, J. A. Norris Meat Market, D. A. Shelton glass works or carpentry, last on the corner was J. W. Hibbs' grocery store, above which was the K. of P. and Pythian Sisters Hall. Many of our church and school activities and parties were in this hall. Many years it was used as a city hall and a voting place.

Going to the east side of the square and walking to the south was the Numa State Savings Bank. Frank Hoover was cashier. As earlier stated, it was started in 1911 and closed in '29 with the rest of the small banks in the county. In 1913 the Numa Bank had capital of \$15,000, and cashier was I. L. Long. I don't recall anything between bank, however.

Next was the post office, with Bert Russell, postmaster, and Henry Fox as rural routeman. Many a wonderful time has been had by all school youngsters in the post office. I recall one time they moved an old church seat to the post office. While repairing it, Travis Russell and the Fox boys wired it with electricity and would wait till all the girls came in and sat down. Then someone would turn it on and laugh with glee as we all screamed, jumped and fell all over the place. With passing of time, this building, built by John Cambruzzi of Seymour, is now the only remaining one on the square. It is now the city hall.

Next was the grocery store run by Bruce Packard and next was a building used in various ways, I recall it being a restaurant run by C. Hockman.

The barbershop was run by Jim Hasty. Earlier this was a bakery run by J. A. Beggs.

The Hotel Frances was not active as a hotel, as I remember. Downstairs was used as a drygoods and grocery store run by Mrs. D. A. Shelton. In later years, the Livery Stable was moved from behind the hotel. A large stair was built to the second story of the hotel and this was the home of Numa's famous nightclub, called "The Avalon." It was run by Mr. and Mrs. Ted Hibbs. Local orchestras played for dances. At one time it was the most popular spot in the county.

Glen Norris had a large stucco building in which he had a garage and a filling station out in front. Later Mr. Packard and Bert Arbogast ran it.

Across the main street road was the home of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Todd. He was the marshal for many years. Down from his home was the jail. The location now would be below where the garage on the John Herrald property now is.

The jail was a small cement block building with large iron door and windows. When not in use they stored the town's fire wagon in it. This was a two-wheeled affair with a lot of hose attached. Our home, the Anderson Langford, caught on fire and Fred Langford was downtown with the team and wagon. It was hitched to the



Old Cottage Street

wagon and the chemical quickly put in, along with a load of townspeople who came and quickly saved the home.

Going on down Main Street: What is now the Thomas field was called Rabbit Row, a unit of 6 or 8 coal company houses were built here. Each had a small back lot and the families usually kept a cow, chickens and pigs. They also were used as boarding houses.

Next were the two big Hibbs homes. Sam and James, brothers, built and furnished their homes alike. Each held an acreage back of them. The Sam Hibbs home is now occupied by the son, Jimmie Hibbs and family. It has been completely remodeled and is very modern. On the next lot is now the Red and White grocery, hardware and filling station, operated by Lula, Dorothy and Jimmie Hibbs.

One could go on for pages enumerating the changes of business.

I still recall the little box car houses painted yellow which the Mexicans lived in. They worked on the railroad. "Cinchona" was one of the most beautiful, I recall. Tom Acosti was of Spanish or Mexican descent. He was an accomplished guitarist and played on the street and for parties.

The stockyards were located across the road from the now Henry Gatrell home. There was a large weighing scale, about ten large pens and a large loading chute leading to the railroad, which switched in the cars. One of the largest shippers as I recall from here was Noah Harper. He shipped horses, cattle and hogs. Later he raised race horses. He was always a colorful person in his two wheeled cart with a prancing horse.

The stockyard was also used by the railroad for resting cattle, feeding and watering them. Cars of hogs and cattle were shipped by all leading farmers to Chicago, Kansas City, and Quincy, Ill. This necessitated plenty of feed and straw for bedding. As we passed it at night we always told of the number of tramps who hid and slept near the straw pile. Coming of transportation changes, nearness of markets finally eliminated the need for the yards and it was dismantled.

Shippers were the Langford brothers, Anderson, Ray, Fred, and Charley; the Harris, Johnsons, Bert McNailey, Elmer Condra, the Stewarts, Andy Stanton, Frank Harvey, the Veaches, and many others we can't recall.

THE TOWN OFFICIALS

The Mayor of Numa at present is Neil Doggett. Council members are Howard V. Clemens, Earl Grenko, Bob Ross, Nick Grenko, Elliza Miller, and Doyle Arbogast, Clerk. Ledio Susin is Marshal.

Many of our local people have served in these offices. Claude Langford served as Mayor for ten years.

Mrs. Veryl Clemens is the present secretary of the Council.

General handyman of the town is Earl Grenko. He is the School bus driver, drags roads, and is church janitor besides doing general farm and trucking work.

School Board members are John Bertelli, Pete Smith, Frank Marshall, Paul Thomas, Nick Grenko, Earl Houser, Treasurer, and Neil Doggett, Secretary.



THE SCHOOL
"Our Most Beautiful Landmark"

When I first went to school in Numa in 1917, we went to school in a frame building with a heating stove in each room. We sat three in a double seat at first. The building was a large one, and had about eight rooms. We went there for a while and later we moved to the small white frame one-room, which sat at the end of the lot. It was the old Christian Church, and was first a classroom and later a home-making room. The old schoolhouse sat where the present ball field is today. Pep Russell has pictures of the school.

In front of the present building was a large row of houses. We recall cutting through Grandma Richardson's yard to get to the schoolhouse. She used to become so enraged at us she often threatened us with a butcher knife.

Teachers I recall are Lou Norris, Susan Meadows, Lola McCabe, Maé Nugent,

Maud Coulson, M. Coulson, R. D. Bell, Amy R. Wright.

During our school attendance in the new building there was no gymnasium. Our class plays and graduations were held in the church and Miners' Hall. At one time feeling was so high in regard to the coal strike, that a stage was built in front of assembly, and all activities were conducted from it.

Near the old building was a three room house which was used for manual training and homemaking.

Thus the ever-growing population gave rise to the need of building a larger school. From school records we find in August 1923 a special election was held to vote a \$16,000 bond issue for the purpose of erecting the new building. Vote carried and six lots were secured from J. W. Hibbs in front of the old building. Contracts were let to B. S. Staley and Son, G. Jordan and Fred Stuber, brick work.

The High School was approved for the 9th, 10th, and 11th grades in 1923-24. May Francis was State Superintendent. 1925 added the fourth year of high school.

C. C. Arbogast was the first janitor.

Amy R. Wright was the first Superintendent. She not only taught classes, she coached both boys and girls basketball teams, and the first year was coach for all baseball, both boys and girls. Outdoor courts for basketball were behind the schoolhouse. Mrs. Wright drove an open-air Dodge. She took us all over the county to play ball. Mel Davis also drove. We upset coming home from a Cincinnati game.

When the building was first built there were outside toilets, coal houses, and water had to be carried and put in coolers. Later a complete water pressure system was added, along with toilets.

Some interesting items from the school records:

1916--Coal was bought for \$2.83 a ton from Grundy Block Coal Co.

1927--Coal from Tony Tometich at \$3.70.

Teachers taught for \$60 a month, one year received a \$2.00 a month raise.

First class to graduate was in 1925.

Ethel Christy, Mae Doggett, Mildred Frazell, Claude Stanton, Margaret Woodruff.

The last class graduated in 1957: Gary Parks, Deloris Furling, Bonnie Kirkland, Lois Peek, Ronald Gatrell, Donna Proffitt and Archie Martin.

The story of Numa's High School and grades has been published yearly as annuals. Thirty-two wonderful high school years makes it difficult to tell the story with individual discrimination.

At close of high school a grade school is maintained and the following is a report by Mrs. Gladys Houser:

The Numa Elementary School came into being in the fall of 1957 with an average enrollment of 50.

The instructional duties have been divided among three instructors. The lower grades consist of kindergarten, which is only attended for one-half day, the first second and third grades. The intermediate room houses the fourth, fifth, and sixth grades. The seventh and eighth grades occupy the former high school assembly room.

Due to the efforts of the local board the State of Iowa has been greatly interested in the continuing progress of our fine grade school. During the first year the State appropriated money with which to install a new fluorescent lighting system as well as the purchasing of new and up-to-date globes, dictionaries and text books. The states' interest continued in the second year and a new fire alarm system was installed. Also remodeling the furnace room was approved, and a partition was installed to divide the coal bin from the furnace room. Again because of the apparent success of the school and the great interest of the board and faculty, the State again came to the aid of Numa's grade school and this time appropriated enough money to purchase new American coloramaic classmate seats and desks from the American Seating Company. Our new seats and desks are very modern and comfortable. They also add much to our cheerful interior because of the beautiful Diploma Blue standards with Classday Coral Book-Boxes. The three-position tops are of birch grained Amerex plastic and the adjustable seats are of coral polymer

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plastic. To make our school even more attractive the Board had the halls and rooms painted turquoise and pink with white ceilings in keeping with our new seats. The basement halls were painted in two shades of green. This past fall a new gym ceiling was approved by the State and purchased and installed by the Board. The State also helped in the building-in of partitions of all stairwells in order to make our school more safe as far as fires are concerned and beautiful new birch doors were installed not only in the stairwells but also in the junior high room.

Our grade school is very fortunate in having a Hot Lunch program. In the summer of 1959 our kitchen was rejuvenated by the painting of all cabine's in apple blossom pink, green walls, and new white plastic curtains. New drapes were also purchased for the dining room and due to the efforts of the Board, students, faculty and parents, new chairs were purchased for the dining room.

Since all the rooms are not being used at the present time and since we all have a very warm and proud feeling for our former high school, the Board, students and faculty thought it would be proper and fitting to set aside the former typing room as a memorial to the high school. In doing so, the walls were painted in keeping with the present color scheme of turquoise, pink and white. The trophies, cases and awards were placed in this room as well as all high school pictures which were hung in numerical order.

Principal—Mrs. Gladys Houser.

Intermediate—Mrs. Deloris Foster.

Primary—Mrs. Helen Murphy.

BASKETBALL

In 1925 we played basketball on an outdoor court. Lime was used to mark off the court. Games were held in the afternoon. There were no bleachers or seats, everyone stood. Such loyal fans stood in the cold and cheered for the team. We first started out with large pleated bloomers. Later we made our own suits, the first shorts worn in our town. Some could not play because shorts were considered most indecent. The only inside games were at County Tournaments. Early players were Frank Humphries, Travis Russell, Lois Russell, Bryon Inman, Floyd Lowe, Audrey Ross, Grace Wilson, Hazel and Cora Dodrill, Lucille Stanton, Lily Anderson, etc. Amy R. Wright served the first year as coach for both boys and girls. Later Harold Best served as coach. With the growing interest in sports in school, the Board of Education and A. R. Fenton decided to build a new gymnasium. In 1935 bonds were voted to build said structure. A grant from the Federal Works Administration, or W.P.A., in which 45 per cent of said cost would be carried by the government.

The Board and State constructed and opened to the public the gymnasium in 1936. For 32 years this structure has and is serving our community. Basketball has been by far the most outstanding activity. Class graduations, plays, and county tournaments have been held here, and it has served as a community hall. This year, 1960, it has been redecorated.

Under the direction of John and Mildred Arbogast King, the boys and girls teams have won every trophy given. All are on display in the trophy case.

A few notable victories:

1935-36—County champions.

1938-39—Maxine Arbogast free throw champion for both county and state.

1941—County, sectional, district and state championships (girls).

Many wonderful people have worked in our athletic program. It is difficult to find and give credit to all who gave time and talent. Some were Roland Ross, James Arbogast, W. T. Evans, Willis, Marsh, Westercamp, Carney, Sweetland, A. R. Fenton, the Kings, and Harold Best.

NUMA CEMETERY

In January, 1896, a meeting of citizens was called for the purpose of forming an association to be known as the Numa Cemetery Association; to buy land, to lay out and maintain a cemetery. Officers were W. W. Elliott, president; N. C. Blackburn, secretary; M. Arbogast, treasurer. Others who formed or carried on work were George W. Athy, W. W. Elliott, M. Arbogast, A. P. Stanton, George W. Holshouser.

A. E. Arbogast, N. C. Blackburn, U. L. Hurt, J. B. Packard, J. H. Packard, and Bruce Packard.

For many years the Association carried on. Every lot owner cared for graves himself. Many who left never returned to clean the burial grounds. The graveyard became a deplorable place. Under the constant urging of her parents, Hazel Thompson, Jimmie Hibbs and Herschel Fox got together in April, 1948 to do something about perpetual care of sacred ground, and a new association bearing same name was founded. A constitution and by-laws have been adopted and a yearly fee is assessed. The cemetery is now beautifully kept. Alex Green was for years its caretaker. Jim Harris is at present. Additional land has been cleared by Jim Harris and tentative plans made for a new road and new addition of plats. Lulu and Dorothy Hibbs care for records, also help in burial services. The Cemetery Board is now Jimmie Hibbs, Logan Anders, Neil Todd and John Presbyterio.

MARTINSTOWN, OR AS WE KNOW IT, SHANTYTOWN

The large Martin mine caused the village to be platted as Marinstown. May 14, 1913, there were about 40 to 50 houses there. As long as I can remember it has been called Shantytown. Most of the houses have been moved and the land made into smaller homes.

Some tell of a small school for kindergarten near the mine. School was held in regular country style in a classroom built by the mine. Teachers were Grace Mackey, Mrs. Herbert, and Hazel Rick.

An interesting incident occurred in what was known as the Feketik home. The home was bought by a World War II veteran and wife. It was made completely modern with built-in cabinets and wall to wall carpeting. A few years later it was bought by a Latin teacher of Centerville High School. Unfortunately, she met an untimely death in a car accident. Officers, Sheriff and posse had to be called to the home to destroy some 35 dogs and 28 cats which were left behind in the home during her teaching day.

THE PEOPLE

Numa has a mixture of ancestries of its people. A great foreign element has always been present. The Italians, many of whom came from the same northern Italy village, have all been good coal miners as well as active citizens. We also have Austrian, Croatian, German, English, and Belgian residents. When interviewed, a great majority came from Florenzno and Bolomi provinces of north Italy. Most told that all came from large families and after serving their military duties came to seek a better life. Many went back after awhile, brought with them their families or future brides.

The Lawrences came from Wales. Many farmers date their ancestry back to England and Germany. Early doctors were U. L. Hurt, Dr. Chrissinger, Dr. Johnson, and Dr. Dukes.

A Numa boy was the first Appanoose casualty of World War II. He was Edgar G. Johnson. He crashed in a bomber at Springfield, Ohio, Nov. 19, 1942.

Maxine Arbogast won the free throw contest at the state basketball tournament in 1939.

Numa girls won the State Basketball Tournament in 1941.

Franz Harvey was the finest baby in the State Contest at the Iowa State Fair, Sept. 19, 1913. Franz was the son of Gertie and Frank Harvey.

Bellair had the first High School in the county.

Ben Rick was the first Mayor of Numa.

In 1920 the Numa Motor Co. had been taken over by Flenchmins.

Mrs. Grace McCannon of Numa billed herself as the "Mule Faced Lady from Numa, Iowa." We saw her at the World's Fair in Chicago. Due to a disfigurement of her face at birth, she was able to go thruout the world and used it as an asset rather than liability. She is married and mother of a son, who travels with her. She is traveling in the south and we hope that we can have her return to Numa to honor her at this celebration.

Angelina Cerato honored our town by serving her country in World War II as a WAAC, serving as a secretary to Gen. Eisenhower, Chief of Staff. She was present in the Little Red Schoolhouse at signing of pact or treaty ending World War II. She has the pen used to sign this historic document as a souvenir. Her married name is Angelina Sims and she lives in Kansas City.

George Heavilin owns and operates his own Beauty School in Kansas City.

SUMMARY OF EARLY PIONEER LIFE (Excerpt from Obituary of B. F. Bradley)

Born 1846—died May 1929 at age of 82 years, 9 months and 12 days. The eldest of a family of eleven. Death took his father. He came to Numa at age of seven. When he was 14 years of age, the Civil War broke out and the terrible years of trial and test bore heavily on the young keeper of the home and on Feb. 27, 1864, at the age of 17, he enlisted in Third Iowa Cavalry with continuous service, was mustered out at Atlanta, Georgia, Aug. 9, 1865. His troop was part of an engagement that occurred after the surrender at Appomatox Court House. Married Dec. 31, 1867. To this union nine children were born. The only remaining one, Mrs. Laura Porter, of Centerville. He served his community as Board Member, Mayor, Justice of Peace, active Republican, church member of the Methodist Church. His home on Numa's Cottage Street was always a gathering place for leaders of community life. Later the William Porters lived there. It is now the home of Mr. and Mrs. Eliza Miller.

BOY SCOUTS

Numa Scout Troop No. 1 was organized in 1924, receiving their first troop charter the 14th day of November 1924.

Bert Russell, known to all as W. B. in that day, decided on July 4th of that year, after seeing some very good first aid performed on his son Travis who became ill at the celebration in the city park, by the Centerville Scout Troop 32, that he would take up Scouting and give the boys of Numa a chance to learn Scouting methods.

Back in 1924 the Scouting picture was not as clear and definitely defined as it is today. There was no Southern area Council office in Ottumwa, all information had to be gained through main headquarters in New York. Walter Adams, Scoutmaster of Troop 32, Centerville (one of the first troops) was invited to Numa with a group of his boys and helped W. B. set up the charter and get things rolling for No. 1 of Numa.

W. B. Russell was Chief Scoutmaster, John S. Wright (the only living member today) was assistant Scoutmaster, W. H. Thompson, J. W. Martin, E. D. Crowder, were the Troop Committee on the first charter and all this was sponsored by the Methodist Church. The first meeting place was the M. E. Sunday School room and the church basement for activities. This was all arranged because W. B. was the Numa Methodist Sunday School Superintendent at that time.

During this time Troop No. 1 had 72 Boy Scout names in membership nine of which attained the highest rank of Eagle Scout and the highest merit rating west of the Mississippi River at that time in 1931. The two boys who took part in the contest at a Centerville rally to gain this rating from the New York office were George Heavilin and Rudolph Marrone. They ran 20 feet, built fire by friction two feet high and were back at their station in a matter of seconds.

In 1932 George Humphries replaced W. H. Thompson on the committee and Bert Johnson became Assistant Scoutmaster. In 1933 Roland Ross, an Eagle Scout, became Assistant Scout master.

During the Numa Scouting there was no contribution for the Scouting program as there is today. The kickoff breakfast was in the Russell home and the drive for funds began at the Russells' front door and ended there. W. B. considered this as a very worthwhile investment as three of his sons received the training too.

During World War II, W. B. spent most of his time writing letters to his Scouts all over the world and in return received wonderful letters from them. His last letter was one from Eagle Scout Rudolph Marrone (now deceased) who did govern-

ment work in California during the war which stated he had received a Life Scout badge.

For ten years W. B. Russell enthusiastically worked with the boys, also teaching them taxidermy. They drew their plans and built two log cabins on a site loaned them by the H. L. Johnson family south of Numa. This was their meeting place and camping grounds until the main cabin was burned one night by vandals of unknown origin; and it was never rebuilt. All the boys had left of a lot of hard work were memories and pictures. W. B. spent his last years reminiscing and content knowing that he helped Numa boys by means of the Scouting program and never forgetting to praise Walter Adams for the help and advice he gave them. A full tribute cannot be expressed in so many words, the results of his work is shown in many boys scattered over the USA.

A Scout troop was again formed in Numa. The unit was sponsored by the Numa Independent School for 1950-51 and the number of the troop was 34. Scoutmaster was C. E. Hogg, assistant Scoutmaster Vernon Goff. Troop Committee Chairman was John Cerato.

There is no troop now.

THIS & THAT

Nov. 11, 1918: Sale Bill, George Krewson, Numa, held Wednesday, Nov. 13. Sold 21 head livestock and 1914 model car. Numa Red Cross Ladies served lunch.

Nov. 29, 1901: Boys' Suits \$1.25 to \$5.00.

A First Aid team from Numa U.M.W.A. won first in contest with other locals in First Aid action. Prize \$50.00. D. F. Sexton, Capt., Elmer Beck, John Padavon, John Grande, Thomas Ross, J. P. Criddle.

July 8, 1861: Co. D left for Civil War.

Appanoose County sent 1400 men to Civil War. Records show it to be 12 per cent of the population.

Numa Items from an Old Paper

Phillip R. Squires, native of Wales, came to Numa in 1893. He died in 1894. Was buried in Numa cemetery.

Mrs. Ann Fox, mother of Mrs. N. C. Blackburn, came to home near Numa 1855.

Mrs. M. M. Wilson purchased and gave chairs to Christian Church to replace seats.

The Christian Aid Society will have an Oyster Supper at the church Nov. 24. Following articles to be sold: Two white quilts, one embroidered in blue silk and the other in red silk. 240 names; four comforters, embroidered pillow shams, splashers, pillow cases, baby pillow cases all in blue silk and other fancy work. Public invited to attend and aid worthy cause.

Strange as it may seem the names of the pioneer families which have been a part and still are vital to our town. One of the earliest was a Miles Arbogast. Now in the year 1960 Stephen Arbogast, son of the Wayne Arbogasts, to carry on for another generation to come.

We will pay honor to our older citizens who will have the good fortune to be with us on our May 29 program:

Mrs. Rebecca Martin, age 86; Charley Arbogast, 91; Cecilia Johnston, Ed Testo, Mattie Clemens, Celeia Johnson, Daisy Beer, Mrs. Dot Grundy, Mr. and Mrs. George Frogge, Roy Packard, Alex Green, and others we can't recall.

Mr. and Mrs. Jim Followill although both are deaf and dumb have maintained their home and self care. Both are in their late 60's.

R. L. Ware enlisted in Civil War in 1864, 47th Infantry, Co. B.

Uncle Press Wilson died at his home west of Numa April 9, 1896. He had served in the Black Hawk War.

Mrs. M. M. Wilson was from a family of 16. Her brother, Dr. Dyball, often visited Numa. We remember Potter Dyball who lived winter and summer in a tent and cut props. He was on the Harris Johnson and Alex Inman places.

A triple wedding occurred at Albia on March 3 when Forrest Compton and Georgia Ewers, Clarence Ewers and Pauline Heckerson of near Seymour, Roy

Stroud and Gertrude Davis of Mystic all motored to Albia and were married there.

A Mr. Dyball and Bert Russell had a long distance foot race. Mr. Dyball beat Bert and in a second race Bert won.

Some of the old timers tell of a shooting which occurred in town. Details are not clear.

The Syzmore family was a talented group that lived here. Jimmie Syzmore was a radio singer.

Mary Padovan is head welfare director of schools in Portland, Oregon.

Edna Padovan, Washington, D. C., secretary, has served with Representatives Le Compte and John Kyl.

Bessie Condra Russell, missionary in Child Evangelism, Tokyo, Japan. Husband, Wayne, Director of School, Kitatama Gun, Tokyo.

Harold Langford, engineer, traveled all over the world as general sales consultant for large earth moving equipment company, located in California now.

Mrs. Viola Sexton, mother of three daughters, Mrs. J. P. Criddle, Mrs. Lily Compton and Mrs. Myrtle Bell, had 28 grandchildren, 69 great-grandchildren and three great-great-grandchildren.

Drag Day 1913: Many took part, four Langfords with individual teams took part. Jimmie Hibbs as a boy rode one of the drags.

Steve Tometich, now Chief of Police at Bettendorf, Iowa, started as a patrolman. Chief since April 1, 1953, and is now serving in that capacity.

SPORTS

Baseball was the all time great favorite in early days. Games were played in Stanton's field up by the mine, Frank Harvey's field and later in the school yard. Early professional team: Earnest Ellis, Sol Seddon, Jesse Murray, Bill Ross, Tom Ross, Bob Ross, Matt Followell, George Roach, Frank Stewart, Ed Trent, Goff Trent. They played many other towns in competitive play. Later boys were Bay Lowe, the Russell boys, Inman, the Harvey boys, and many others.

Girls played earlier team Lizz Roach and Grace Ross.

Girls played in Frank Harvey and Doggett fields. Bob Ross was umpire and coach. Jean, Hazel and Kathryn Langford, Audrey, Neal Ross, Frances Hibbs, Dorothy Seath, the Heavilin girls. Many fascinating and really good games were played by both boys and girls teams thruout the years.

Numa also had a soccer team.

The Doggetts had a race track in their field. Foot races every Sunday afternoon.

Marble Games: All ages took part. There was one great ring, young and old took part. Tournaments were held.

Boxing and wrestling were held up by the mine, with bets galore.

Shoots over the barrel or similar to our trap shoots were held.

Many a big poker game has taken place up behind the Diamond mine as well as in many other places.

Kitchen dances were popular, held in various homes. People danced all night except on Saturday.

Fights of all kinds. I recall Fred and Andy Langford whipped the Mayor for his remarks.

Martin had a merry-go-round operated by Jim Farnsworth.

The picture show was first without sound. One of the Lowe girls played piano while picture was shown. Later a player piano.

One old item tells of a bowling alley above a restaurant.

MINES

Diamond—Burned in '21 or '22. Rebuilt.

Prairie Coal Co.—Worked 90 days then closed for good.

Krewson Mine—Near present John Cerato farm.

Tony Tometich—north of town. "Kob."

Martin's Mine.

Centerville Block Nos. 1 and 2.

Arbogast Mine, or "Katie."

Blind Pig, or some say Grundy mine.

Miller Mine—Located on former Andy Langford farm.

New Gladstone—north of Numa.

Bertelle Mine.

There may be more mines which had a direct bearing on the growth and decline of our community, but these were the most prominent in all historical documents found. Needless to say, they and the coming of the railroad served to add to the personal and famous citizens of our earlier to present day community. Pages would not hold all the names of those who managed and worked at these mines. Some were mere slope mines, others had large cage elevations to load and hoist coal. Cars carried the men back into the ground many miles. Ponies were and are used to bring coal to the shaft to hoist.

Always connected with the mines were the stories of sadness and tragedy. A number died from damps. Numa's most tragic mine accident occurred at Old Kob, where a young man, Harry Coombs, was sent down at night to oil the large air-shaft fan. B. O. Buck was engineer. Coombs' body had become entangled in the fan and his legs were whipped off. Posey Coombs now in Centerville has the clipping and picture of this tragic accident.

The U.M.W.A. was a very strong and active group. It was in 1891 that unionism came to the mine fields here. Previous to that time there was a check-off system where mine companies built houses and had company stores and everything was checked off the miners' wages.

The U.W.W.A. built the J. W. Martin store and Miners' Hall. It has served the community in every capacity from meetings, dances, shows, voting place, school activities and now is a broiler plant.

Union troubles had their feeling in Numa in two different periods, 1927 and early 1900.

Numa today can hardly believe that wages of miners in Numa in 1906 for the month of February were \$15,630; Nov. 15-Dec. 15, \$24,961; July to December \$76,563.

The mining camp fund has been a great basis for our maintaining a wonderful school system.

RAILROAD

History shows that the county had to put up \$125,000 plus free right of way to establish the Chicago-Rock Island through parts of this town. Each landholder gave the lands.

The Railroad gave employment to many from Agent to Section men. Repair and establishing of road brought many people to our town. Some stayed.

Many agents served, some I recall are Warneceit, Chumbley, Mr. Bland and Frank Hoover.

PRESENT NUMA RESIDENTS

Tony Grenko, Mattie Clemens, James Followell, Gale Wilson, Arthur Moore, Tony Furlin, Mrs. Jones, Freddie Squires, Veryl Clemens, Henry Gatrel, Tony Marsiglio, Jasper Frogge, Alex Greene, Martha Christy, Doyle Arbogast, Oney Parks, Bob Ross, George Frogge, John Ostino, Ronnie P. Lira, Roy Phillips, Earl W. Grenko, Maria Mattota, Raymond Doggett, Rebecca Martin, John Herrald, Roland Herrald, Robert J. Danay, Gary Thomas, Jimmie Hibbs, James Harris, Tony Susich, James Farley, Eva Kelce, Elsworth King, Neil Todd, Andrew Gillaspie, Archie Chapman, Ambrose Nobile, Gene Harris, Louie Nobile, August Marsiglio, Wayne Arbogast, Sarah Haught, Cora and Carl King, John Zore, Mrs. Buck, Lilly Stanton, Bert Vola, John Presbyterio, Ed Testo, Wayne Beer, Bill Russell, Eliza Miller, Hopper Lowe, George Roach, Grace Ross, John Bertelli, Agnes Langford, Grace Langford, Mrs. Hamm, Neil Doggett, Nick Grenko, Ledio Susin, Gea and Mary Susin, Ambrose Nobile,

Neno Susin, Elmer Proffitt, John Susin, Roy Packard, Joe and Judy Clark, Mrs. Dan Grundy, Harold Sayres, Nick Radavich, Dwight Fenton, Wayne Arbogast, Charley Arbogast, Boone Heavilin, Brown Heavilin, John Cronkotvich, Mr. and Mrs. Clay-

brook, Alex Green, Frank Marshall, Earl Houser, Reuben Dooley, Mr. and Mrs. Bertelle Sr., Mr. and Mrs. Furlin, Eva and Mrs. Tometich, Francis Micetich, Logan Andrews, Matt Zunich, John Tometich, Hazel Fox, Vern Medland, Myron Condra, Goldie Laske.

WARS

Numa, Bellair and Hibbsville have always sent their number of available men and women to service in the Civil War, World Wars I and II, and the Korean War. Some earlier citizens may have served in the Black Hawk War and Mexican War.

During the Civil War, stories are told of a complete lodge of Bellair, all volunteered and became a part of Co. D, Kansas Infantry. World War I took a heavy toll of early Numaites. World War II affected every home. Many lives were lost and local youths are scattered throughout the world as its result. Many were brought back and beautiful services have been held to pay honor to them.

Many today are taking their times in life to serve their country. Names have not been mentioned for insufficient knowledge of all concerned. A board with the names of Numa graduates who served in World War II hangs in the school building.

Population fall in Numa: 1910—659; 1915—738; 1950—248; 1960—200, approximately.

Farmers near are L. C. Daughtrey and family, Frank Thomasson, J. Morrett, L. C. Cline, and the Drakes.

NUMA TODAY

Our business houses are the Raymond Doggett filling station, which carries a full line of tires, batteries, car supplies, gasoline, and also sells beer. Mr. Doggett has been in business 10 years.

Dr. F. B. Leffert of Centerville serves most of the community as local doctor.

The Red and White Grocery, run by Lulu, Jimmie, and Dorothy Hibbs, has a full line of groceries, hardware, as well as feeds and a gasoline station.

The former Miners' Hall is now converted into a chicken broiler plant. Four floors are used to raise the chickens. The basement, first, second and third floors and an addition to the south are used. The Centerville Poultry Co. owns the plant, and four times a year produces 13,500 broilers. Veryl Clemens manages and cares for the plant.

The School, Post Offices, and Churches' stories appear elsewhere in this issue. Mrs. Lillie Stanton operates a rest home for the aged.

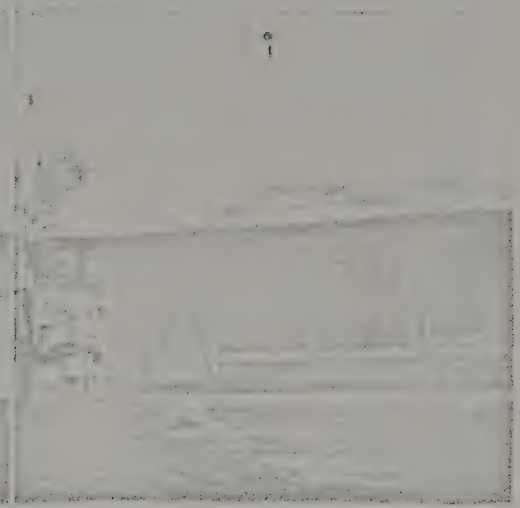


Stanton Rest Home

NUMA OF TODAY



Dogget Filling Station



City Hall



Catholic Church

Printed May, 1960.
Iowegian Printing Co.,
Franz W. Harvey, Printer

